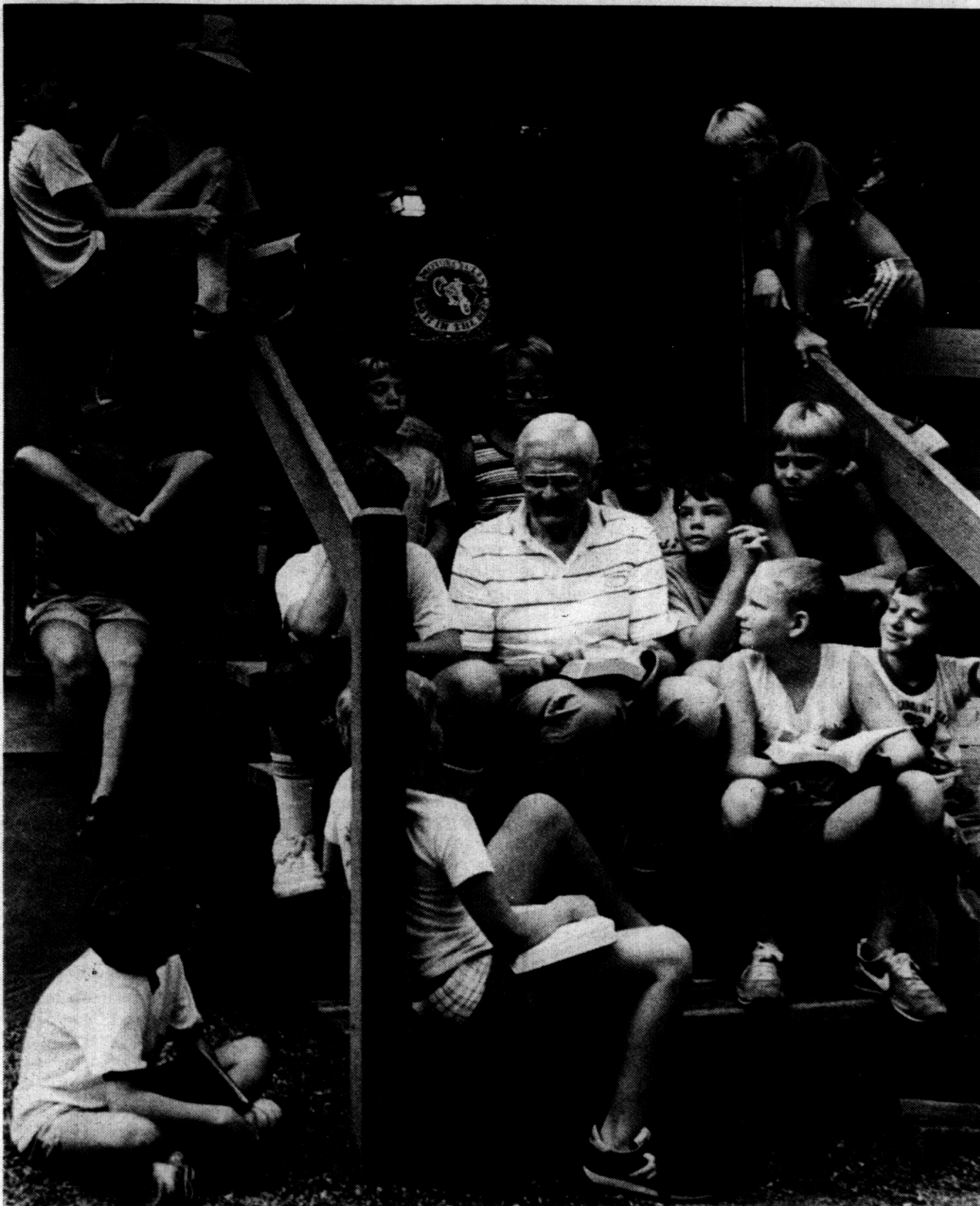


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 31, 1985

Published Since 1877



Royal Ambassador week

Brotherhood president James H. Smith leads a cabin devotion during his tour of five Royal Ambassador camps earlier this year. Smith is shown with Crusader RA's at Camp Caraway, the North Carolina state RA camp, in July, 1985. The Brotherhood president also visited RA camps in Mississippi,

Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Virginia.

November 3-9 is Royal Ambassador Week across the SBC. Convention-wide, RA enrollment has grown to 260,000. The Mississippi enrollment is 11,000.

Home has 'grounds' to collect \$61,746

By Helen Sheffield

MONROE, La. (BP)—What do you do with 1,029,108 Community Coffee coupons?

Earl Mercer can tell you.

At the end of August, Mercer, public relations director for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, took them—in 23 boxes—to the Community Coffee office in Baton Rouge. On Sept. 13, company officials presented a \$61,746.48 check to Children's Home Superintendent Wade B. East.

Community Coffee decided to discontinue its more than 30-year-old coupon program at the end of 1984. But, when the company closed its premium stores, it agreed to redeem—at double value—any coupons, regardless of date, collected by non-profit organizations such as the Children's Home and turned in by Aug. 31, 1985.

The coupons have been arriving at the Baptist Home steadily since an organized effort to collect them was launched early in the year. They came in 4,188 pieces of mail—from people all across the state and several out-of-state locations. Some of them were collector's items from the early years of the coupon program. Some were so old they were crumbling and some people didn't bother to clip them—they just sent the whole package.

Not all the contributors were Baptists. One batch came with a note signed "Three Methodists, one Catholic, and one Episcopalian."

The donors included children, senior citizens, civic organizations, church groups, businesses, and social clubs.

"Hundreds of pieces of mail were sent by anonymous donors," East said.

It took weeks to sort, clip, and bundle the coupons in stacks of 100 for delivery to the company.

Mercer said he got an unbelieving gasp from the company's secretary when he called to ask for a convenient time to make this delivery.

"She said if I was calling from Monroe, I could just mail them," Mercer said. "But I said, 'You don't understand. I have more than a million of them.' I thought she was going to faint." The Baptist Home's collection is the largest turned in by any organization for redemption, according to William B. Carter, marketing manager for Community Coffee.

East said part of the money will be used to purchase a van needed to take children to church, school and community activities.

The rest of the money will be placed in a permanent endowment with the interest earned each year used to pay for clothing and shoes for boys and girls moving into the Home.

Panel votes to retain non-itemized deduction

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The House Ways and Means Committee has voted to retain, with limits, the charitable contribution deduction now allowed non-itemizing taxpayers.

The committee's action came in response to a provision in President Reagan's tax reform package that would remove deductibility for contributions made to charities by people who do not itemize their deductions.

Under the committee's agreement, non-itemizers would be able to deduct in full their contributions above \$100 a year. The committee's vote also

would make this provision permanent law.

Current tax law allows non-itemizers to deduct 50 percent of all charitable contributions made during 1985, with a 100 percent deduction on such contributions scheduled for tax year 1986. The present provision for non-itemizers is to expire at the end of 1986. The Reagan plan would repeal outright the 1986 deduction.

Rep. Harold E. Ford, D-Tenn., proposed an amendment in the committee to make permanent a deduction for all who contribute to charity. After several revisions, a version offered by Rep. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., was adopted.

Jerusalem congregation faces long wait for building

By David Smith

JERUSALEM (BP) — Three more years of waiting may lie ahead for the Narkis Street Baptist Church in Jerusalem, which lost its auditorium in a 1982 fire set by arsonists.

After receiving official notice that the church's rebuilding plans have been turned down by Israeli officials, the pastor, Robert Lindsey, said it may be three years before the congregation has a permanent home.

In a notice dated Oct. 8 — three years and a day after the fire — the Jerusalem district planning commission offered to let the 30-member congregation build an auditorium of about 350 square meters and add a second floor of about 175 square meters at the adjacent Baptist House, which is used for small-group meetings and also houses a bookstore. The church would have to develop new building

plans and then await a review by planning officials.

Embarking on an appeal process "may be the next thing we should do," said Lindsey, a longtime Southern Baptist representative in Israel. "It's one of those things you just have to pray through."

Lindsey said the parking problem had been resolved to the satisfaction of the Jerusalem municipality, which approved the building plans in November 1984. Worshipers park at least two blocks from the church in a business district that is empty when the church meets on Saturday, or Sabbath, mornings.

Lindsey said only a small minority of residents in the Jewish neighbor-

hood have complained about noise related to the church. The congregation will create less noise, he added, once it is in an enclosed building, instead of the tent-like structure it has used since the fire.

Ultra-Orthodox opposition to the church is the "basic problem," Lindsey said. "They are a minority in the area. They just don't want us to be there."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Editorials by don mcgregor

Mississippi Baptist history

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Nov. 11 to 13 in Jackson will be one that will major on history. It will signify anniversaries of both the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Mississippi Baptist Convention will be 150 years old with this convention. The Convention Board will be 100 years old.

There will be a great deal related to history that will be a part of this convention. It will be a fine time to attend a convention and become acquainted with what has gone on before among Mississippi Baptists.

From the time of the first Mississippi Baptist, Richard Curtis, until now, it has been an exciting story. It will be told in drama form during this convention.

Two special issues of the *Baptist Record* have been planned for this historic occasion. They will be 32 pages each, which is our press capacity; and then they will be bound into a single 64-page souvenir edition to commemorate the anniversaries.

Mississippi Baptists have meant a great deal to world missions work during these 150 years. Perhaps there was not a noticeable participation 150 years ago, but the groundwork was being laid for great contributions through the years that were to come.

The Master has told us to go and teach all nations, and Mississippi Baptists have sought to do more than their share of fulfilling that mandate.

Our cooperative gifts have grown through the years and those gifts going outside the boundaries of Mississippi now represent a sizeable portion of the total that comes from the churches. For the 1984 calendar

year the percentage was 35, and the total income amounted to \$15,800,852. For 1985 the percentage was raised one-half of one percent is 35½, and the total budget is \$18,000,000. The percentage for 1986 will be 36 on a total budget of \$18,550,000 if the convention adopts the budget that will be proposed by the Convention Board.

So we Mississippi Baptists have put our money into the world mission effort, and we have determined to continue to increase our percentage of gifts going beyond our borders by one-half of one percent until the year 2000. By that time the percentage of such gifts will be 43.

The main ingredient, however, that has gone into the missions endeavor from Mississippi has been its sons and daughters. There are a large number of Mississippi natives serving on foreign fields and also across the United States. There have been many more who have served and have retired. All have served with honor and distinction and have brought glory to the name of the Lord. As has been noted already, it was a Mississippi

native, Lewis Myers, who was chosen to head the new Cooperative Services International office of the Foreign Mission Board. This is an exciting concept that will seek to enlist laymen who are going into foreign countries.

This new program will begin by finding educational and humanitarian programs in mainland China which Southern Baptist laymen can perform as they also become witnesses to their faith.

So history is continuing to be made by Mississippi Baptists, much of it on a nationwide and worldwide basis. The president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Charles Pickering, became involved in Southern Baptist history when he persuaded a large number of Southern Baptist state convention presidents to gather in St. Louis to consider the problems that are plaguing Southern Baptists at this time. The result of the meeting was the establishment of the historic peace committee that is charged with finding what it will take to defuse the Southern Baptist time bomb.



One hundred fifty years of history have been recorded by Mississippi Baptists. This convention is the time for pausing to reflect on that history. It should be a time in which a great

number of messengers would want to have a share.

Be there Nov. 11 to 13 for this time of observation and celebration.

Guest opinion . . .

What will heaven be like?

By L. Aubrey Wells

Jesus said that if we did not believe in earthly things of which he spoke how should we believe of heavenly things if he told about these? (John 3:12). Was he suggesting that neither would we understand? No doubt many at one time or another, with limited knowledge and imagination, try to envisage what heaven is like. And possibly as I, also wonder whether their images are typical.

We are comforted with the assurance there will be no more parting from loved ones and friends, no more sorrow, illness, pain, blindness, or deafness, nor will there be anything else wrong with our perfect and immortal bodies. But what of our surroundings?

We have heard about pearly gates to heaven, but neither fences nor gates are essential for my happiness. If however there are, I could be content if these are made of cypress, fir, pine, redwood, cedar, or any of the other pure clean smelling woods which have been given us here.

There has been talk of streets paved with gold. It is a beautiful, durable, and precious metal but to me not more beautiful than green grass and not more soft to the touch or to walk on. Some infer there will be prodigious use of rubies, diamonds, sapphires, and other such stones for ornamentation. Can these sparkle more than sun-kissed raindrops adorning foliage after a shower?

Without question in my mind there will be bubbling brooks winding through shady forests inhabited by birds singing and other creatures no longer wild. I like to think we will still have clear blue lakes mirroring surrounding glaciers and snow-capped mountains. Then picture long white sandy beaches bordering wide oceans

with constantly moving swells and waves lapping ceaselessly at the shore as if to remind everyone that they too are alive forever.

Soft breezes, fleecy white clouds, and deep blue skies contribute immeasurably to one's well being and enjoyment. And perhaps we will continue to have seasons. Even a perfect climate and season might become boring without ever a change, and we all know there will be no boredom in heaven. Perish the thought that I would never again experience the joy of lying snugly in a warm bed while listening to a cold wind whistling ominously around the corner of my abode or to rain drumming out a rhythm on the roof.

Who doesn't like to think we will continue to have snow covered slopes on which to ski, frozen ponds on which

to skate, and warm pools of water in which to swim? And what would any world be like without the patter of little feet, shrieks of delight, and laughter of children playing? Let us not forget that Jesus loved children so much he said of such is the kingdom of God. (Luke 18:16).

None of us has yet heard music as sweet as that of the heavenly host of angels singing. Guy Lombardo was careful to claim only that his music was the sweetest this side of heaven. And what a thrill and joy it will be to again hear the dear voices of loved ones so long silent and which we have been able to hear only in our dreams and memories.

There are of course some improvements desired over what we have experienced in this life of both

ourselves and our environment. Lord, deliver us from greed, hate, selfishness, misdirected ambitions, wars, envy, jealousy, and especially ingratitude. Give us more wisdom, self discipline, humility, and compassion for others. Protect us from famines, thirst, hunger, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. With such blessings I am cognizant that this planet as it existed when first entrusted to man and before he littered, poisoned, and otherwise abused the land and polluted the waters and the air, would be a bit of heaven on earth. In truth, if heaven is any more wonderful, I don't know how I could stand it, but, I surely want to try.

L. Aubrey Wells, a layman, is a member of First Church, Clinton.

The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

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Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in

advance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and

Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson,

Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the

Southern Baptist Press Association.

Volume 109 Number 38

No rain at Nalerigu

Mysterious steam fills dry lake after Southern Baptists pray

Gene and Janice Covington are missionaries from Alabama stationed at Nalerigu, in north Ghana.

A recent newsletter sent out by them tells of an unusual happening in their vicinity earlier this year: "The rains were not abundant in 1984, and the water table was very low during this spring. The majority of the people in the village of Nalerigu were carrying water from a small spring on the hospital property. Some of the women were going for water at 2 and 3 a.m. because of slow water seepage into the spring. At prayer meeting

they were not requesting prayer for water, but for protection from the snakes at that dark hour. But Southern Baptists were praying for water!

"On Sunday, March 31, we noticed from our front porch that a crowd was gathering around our dry lakebed. Upon investigation we discovered a stream of water about four feet wide and three feet deep coming into the lake. It literally was a stream of water coming out of the desert, for it had not rained at Nalerigu.

"By nightfall the lake was filled and

the stream had stopped. With our new knowledge of Mampruli, we heard our people giving credit to God. The rains have been abundant this rainy season and the crops were planted early; thus we will have an early harvest. For the first time since our arrival in 1977, the town lake is full and overflowing. You prayed for rain for Africa and your prayers have been answered.

"Our churches are continuing to grow. Two Sundays ago we witnessed and participated in 56 baptisms in two churches."

The Baptist Record

Cooper named honorary chairman of campaign

Preachers will focus on evangelistic preaching

"Preaching Evangelistically," is the theme for a Preaching Conference, Dec. 2-3 at Van Winkle Church, Jackson, sponsored by the Church Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Principal speakers include John Sullivan, Ken Chafin, Joel Gregory, and James Hightower. Sullivan is pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport. Chafin is professor of preaching, Southern Seminary; Gregory is pastor of Travis Ave. Church, Ft. Worth; and Hightower is editor of Proclaim magazine and pastoral ministry at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Music leaders for the conference will be R.L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City.

Purpose of the conference, according to printed materials, is to "provide an indepth workshop on Bible preaching, focusing on preparation and delivery... practical helps for



Chafin



Sullivan



Gregory



Hightower

weekly sermon preparation."

Sullivan's topics include "Evangelistic Interviews of Jesus," "Preaching to Win the Lost," "Revival Sermons I've Used," and "Preaching That Will Nurture the Saved."

Chafin's topics include "The Primacy of Preaching," "Preaching to Revive the Saint," and "Finding the Evangelistic Sermon."

Gregory's topics are "The Shape of the Evangelistic Sermon," and "Giv-

ing the Invitation."

Hightower will speak on "From the Preached Sermon to the Printed Sermon."

To register, write Julius Thompson, director of Church Administration Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Cost is \$10 to cover cost of materials and a meal.

The program begins Dec. 2 at 1:15 with registration and concludes the next day at 3:20.

Home Board appoints Jones

Malcolm Jones, a native of Mississippi, was appointed director of associational missions for western Connecticut by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the board's October meeting in Atlanta.

Jones, 58, originally from Hopewell, has been pastor of Colonial Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md., since 1983, and was pastor of Viers Mills Baptist Church, Silver Springs, Md., from 1976-83.

Jones served as pastor of several Mississippi churches including First

Church, Houston; Gulf Gardens, Gulfport; Richland Church, Richland; and Leesburg, Morton.

He was among 18 new missionaries appointed by the Home Mission Board for service in eight states.

A member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Jones is also a Sunday School growth consultant. He has served on the Mississippi Convention Board and the Maryland State Mission Board.

Jones is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Seminary.

Owen Cooper, of Yazoo City, has been named honorary chairman of the Mississippi Mission — the \$40,000,000 endowment campaign of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In making the announcement, Harry E. Vickery, general chairman, said, "Owen Cooper is known as 'Mr. Baptist.' His leadership is vital."

As a leader of the state's largest religious group, Cooper served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 1955-56, and as a member of the Convention's Education Commission from 1957-59 and 1961-77. Cooper was the last layman to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1973-74.

Cooper, retired chief executive officer and president of Mississippi Chemical Corporation, called the campaign, "The most important effort to undergird Christian education, which would assure the future of Mississippi Baptists."

He served as a trustee of Mississippi Baptist Seminary from 1975-77 and is a past chairman, board of trustees for New Orleans Seminary. He is president of Agricultural Missions Fellowship as well as of the Universal Concern Foundation, Books For the World, and Global Outreach. And he is Secretary of the Men's Department, Baptist World Alliance.

He is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, and has served as chairman of the Mission Committee. Cooper received his bachelors degree from Mississippi State University and his masters degree from the University of Mississippi. His state-wide activities include serving as past president of the Mississippi Economic Council.

"Education is the key to progress; Christian education is the key to Christian progress," Cooper stated.

"The importance of this effort is monumental," he said. "The goal of \$40,000,000 is commensurate with the critical needs of the colleges and Children's Village."

The endowment campaign will raise the endowment levels to \$7,142.00

per student or child, the average across similar Southern Baptist institutions. Funds raised will be placed in restricted trustees by the institutions and the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Interest from the trusts will support the operating budgets of the colleges and The Village.

Mississippi College, the state's oldest institution of higher education,

"Owen Cooper is known as 'Mr. Baptist.' His leadership is vital."

become a Baptist college in 1850. In 1863, the Baptist began a home for "Orphans of the Confederacy." That initial effort lead to The Baptist Children's Village and its six residential campuses across the state.

Blue Mountain College, founded in 1873, was deeded to the Convention in 1919. The youngest of the institutions is William Carey College, founded by the Convention in 1911 as Mississippi Woman's College in Hattiesburg. It became the namesake of, "The Father of Modern Missions" in 1953, as it became co-educational.

There are 6,924 students attending the colleges and The Children's Village has a capacity to serve 242 children at any one time.

Southwestern enrollment up

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Seminary's fall enrollment of 4,375 students is the largest number ever enrolled in a theological school.

Hispanic Baptist Seminary, Southwestern's Spanish-language campus in San Antonio, Texas, doubled last fall's enrollment with 234 this fall.

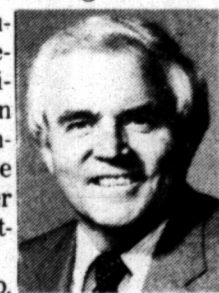
Overall, an additional 147 are taking classes for no credit, which swells the total number of students served to 4,522.

Merritt gets new FMB job

Dewey Merritt, Hattiesburg, native who has been auxiliary orientation manager of the Foreign Mission Board since January 1983, will become associate director, orientation and project management, in the board's Volunteer Enlistment Department Nov. 15.

In his new job, Merritt will direct orientation for volunteers going overseas for less than four months. He also will enlist youth and young adult volunteers, such as Baptist Student Union-related groups.

Merritt was a missionary to Nigeria for 20 years and was in-service guidance director and taught Bible at Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., before joining the Foreign Mission Board's home office staff.



Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Jones

Jackson Book Store hosts Children's Fair

JACKSON — A Children's Book Fair, featuring authors and illustrators of juvenile books, attracted area elementary school children, grades four through six, Oct. 29-31.

The Baptist Book Store at 965 Ellis Ave. sponsored the community service event based on the support other Baptist Book Stores have received from local educators.

Featured personalities included William Armstrong, Robert Burch, Pat Cummings, and Annie Fitzgerald.

Armstrong, a history teacher in Connecticut, is the author of *Sounder*, a book which was twice adapted for film and which won the 1970 Newberry Medal for writing. He is the author of *Sour Land*, also a children's book, and *Through Troubled Waters*, a book for adults.

Burch, a native Georgian, is the author of *Christmas With Ida Early*,

Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain, *Queenie Peavy*, and *Two That Were Tough*.

Cummings, an author/illustrator, is the winner of the 1984 Coretta Scott King Award for illustration. A resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., she is the illustrator of *Fred's First Day*, *My Mamma Needs Me* and *Just Us Women*, a book for adults. She is the author and illustrator of *Jimmy Lee Did It*.

Fitzgerald, an illustrator from Limerick, Ireland, is the originator of "Annie" characters, the children and animals whose likenesses appear on a wide range of products. She has designed and executed a series of stained glass windows, has painted works for several churches in Europe and is the creator of the "Dear God Kids" who have appeared in books and comic strips in several languages.



Missionaries commissioned

The SBC Home Mission Board commissioned four missionaries to serve in Mississippi during its October meeting in Atlanta. Bob and Maudie Storie (couple on left) were commissioned as missionaries to internationals in Pascagoula, where he is director of the Baptist seamen's center. Walter and Lena Mae Johnson (right) were commissioned as black church relations missionaries to serve with the Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson. All four were appointed earlier and are already serving on the field, under joint appointment by the HMB and Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Southwestern trustees fire Professor Farrar Patterson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—For the first time in their history, trustees of Southwestern Seminary here have voted to fire a tenured professor.

The action, the culmination of a bitter controversy, came Oct. 22 during a closed door session, when trustees voted 27-2 to immediately dismiss Farrar Patterson, associate professor of communications and preaching. Three trustees abstained from voting and four members were absent.

Patterson's firing came not as a result of a six-point charge brought against him by seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr., March 20, but because of Patterson's alleged failure to respond to a "re-engagement" process devised by seminary administrators.

An attempt was made to fire Patterson in March, but failed when the secret ballot vote was 19-12, two votes short of the necessary two-thirds required for dismissal.

In March, Dilday brought a six-point charge against Patterson, alleging political implications and charging the professor was a "profane man," a poor teacher, insubordinate and a poor churchman and that he had made an "intentional distortion of the truth."

During that meeting, the political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention was prominent in the discussions, with accusations the dismissal was politically motivated. Dilday was a leader of the moderates in the bitter controversy in the 14.3-million member denomination.

Following the March meeting, three members of the administration designed a "re-engagement" plan to return Patterson to the classroom. The professor was suspended from his teaching responsibilities prior to the March meeting. The re-engagement process was drafted by Dilday, Vice-President John Newport and Dean of Theology William Tolar.

Trustee Chairman Drew J. Gunnels of Mobile, Ala., said the 52-year-old Patterson, however, would not follow the plan, would not meet with the administration about it, and attempted to set his own agenda. Gunnels said the trustees, specifically following the requirements of the faculty manual, took action only on Patterson's response to the re-engagement plan.

Dilday declined to comment on the matter, noting trustees "designated" Gunnels as the spokesman. "This was a matter handled by the board and they suggested that any discussion about it to the press come from (Gunnels)," Dilday said.

Gunnels, pastor of Springhill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., met with the news media following the two-hour closed door meeting. He said the re-engagement process "had to do with Christian deportment, church attendance, classroom technique, writing procedures—basically with those things the faculty manual deals with for any faculty member."

Dilday, Gunnels said, gave a "detailed day-by-day report of the re-engagement process with Patterson to a meeting of the academic affairs committee on Oct. 21, the day before

the trustees' dismissal action. The session lasted more than three hours, Gunnels said, and culminated in the recommendation for dismissal. Only one negative vote was registered, he said. A similar vote was registered in March when the committee first recommended Patterson be fired.

Under conditions of the dismissal recommendation, Patterson will receive full salary and benefits—about \$40,000—through June 1986, and full medical and life insurance coverage—at a cost to the seminary of about \$5,000—for himself and his family through July 1987. "I don't know how the seminary could have been any more fair with the man," said Gunnels.

Gunnels, who praised the spirit of the meeting and the "tolerance" shown opposing views by various trustees, attributed the change in the vote from 19-12 in March to 27-2 in October first to the fact the issue was response to the re-engagement policy, not the charges brought in March; and also to the fact that the "board members had thought this thing through prayerfully."

Gunnels said the closed door meeting was "called because 'we wanted to be able to handle the matter as best we could under God without any interference.' The March meeting was opened to the public and was attended by several students, faculty members, the press and others and some made comments during the meeting.

Last week's meeting was closed, he explained, to limit the discussion to trustees only and to see that the March charges were not reopened. "We wanted to be certain we didn't get back into old things; that we weren't playing to the crowd," Gunnels said. He said the re-engagement process was tacitly approved by the academic affairs committee in May.

Gunnels said trustees, while responsible for setting policy, leave it to the

administration to run the seminary. "And that is the way it should be," he said. "It was for that reason that the re-engagement procedure went through the administration." He added the academic affairs committee tacitly agreed to the re-engagement plan in May.

Patterson, Gunnels said, knew seminary procedures and knew better than to ignore the re-engagement process outlined by the administration. There was no vindictiveness on the part of Dilday or the board, he said. "We just upheld standards of conduct and activity established for faculty members." Failure to do so, he noted, would have been detrimental to faculty morale.

Gunnels said he views the action as vindication of Dilday's seminary leadership. The vote in March had been interpreted as being influenced by the president's involvement in Southern Baptist Convention politics. There was no discussion of that in last week's meeting, Gunnels noted, adding, "We did our best to separate this decision from any other convention activities."

He praised the trustees' willingness to deal with a "difficult situation" and said he would like to communicate to Southern Baptists "to have faith in our procedures."

"Though they are sometimes slow and cumbersome," he said, "I feel our procedures are valid here at the seminary. I feel we have done what is best for the seminary. There is no doubt in my mind about that. It's disheartening and burdening to have to do what we did, but I feel now we can look forward to the future with hope."

(This BP report was prepared by Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press; from information provided by Toby Druin, associate editor, Baptist Standard; Jim Jones, religion editor, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; and Tim Tune and Mark Wingfield of the SWBTS information office.)

Plea for investigation ignored, says Patterson

By Dan Martin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Farrar Patterson is "distressed" over his firing Oct. 22 by trustees of Southwestern Seminary because "my case has never been put to any kind of objective investigation."

Patterson, associate professor of preaching and communications, said trustees apparently ignored registered letters sent them, asking an investigation of "lies" told by seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr.

Patterson, the first tenured professor to be fired in the 78-year history of the seminary here, has been the focus of a bitter controversy which has involved Dilday, trustees, students, faculty, and the Southern Baptist Convention at large.

Following the firing, Patterson said trustees ignored his plea for an investigation into Dilday's "lies and falsehoods," but claimed the registered letter "shook" Dilday into an "attempt to bribe me with \$20,000 if I would resign prior to the trustee meeting."

Patterson told Baptist Press Dilday "showed up at my mother's house in Fort Worth uninvited and unannounced Friday (Oct. 18) and said he would pay me six months salary (about \$20,000) if I would just resign before the trustee meeting."

"He told me he had been out all over the country visiting the trustees and that I would be fired. I just didn't believe him; I didn't want to. But he was right. He did have the votes," Patterson said.

The action of trustees was only on the accusation of failure to cooperate with the plan and did not deal with more serious charges made against Patterson during a March meeting of trustees. At that time Dilday suspended the 17-year veteran from teaching duties and brought a six-point charge against him, alleging the teacher was a "profane man," a poor teacher, a poor churchman, insubordinate and guilty of "intentional distortion of the truth."

Dilday said in March the "culminating" incident occurred when Patterson is alleged to have given an "erroneous" report to an Arkansas pastor concerning actions taken at a faculty meeting in which Dilday's right to speak out in the SBC controversy was affirmed. Dilday was a spokesman for SBC moderates.

"They hung me for refusing to do his re-entry program," Patterson said, adding he does not feel he has been given an opportunity to have his case examined by "somebody besides people who are blinded by the theological controversy."

Following the firing, Patterson told Baptist Press he had sent a registered letter to each of the 35 trustees replying to the charges against him and asking trustees for an "objective in-

vestigation" of the matter.

"I asked the trustees to investigate these lies he (Dilday) has been telling about me. I am sorry I have to call them lies, but that is what they are. I sent them a four-page registered letter which included a response to about 25 falsehoods he has told about me. I felt if the trustees would read my material, they would have to investigate," Patterson said.

The professor, through his attorney, Walt Carpenter of Houston, had threatened this summer to sue Dilday, but delayed the filing of the lawsuit after appealing to Dilday to submit to arbitration by the Christian Conciliation Service and appealing to trustees to investigate. However, according to Patterson, Dilday "never made any effort at reconciliation. In fact it apparently was never an option with him. The only thing he wanted was that I either resign or be fired. He has refused to discuss with me in any way that he has wronged me."

Patterson said he attended several meetings "between the trustee meeting and May 30" in regard to returning to teaching duties. "But by the first of May I saw his (Dilday's) plan was to get me, no matter which way I went. He (Dilday) said he would put me back in the classroom the next day (March 21) but he never intended to do so. In fact, he has not let me back into the classroom at all."

The professor said the "re-entry program was wrong for three reasons. In the first place, neither the trustees nor the faculty manual call for it. In the second, to have submitted to it would have been an indirect admission of guilt to his false charges, and in the third, it was an abuse of his authority. He (Dilday) was discriminating against me; demanding things of me that were not required of anyone else."

Like Dilday, Patterson declined to discuss specifics of the re-entry plan, but cited one example; "He wanted me to do lesson plans for my courses. He never proved I was a bad teacher; he only accused me of being one. In fact, I was a good teacher. To have (submitted lesson plans) would have been an admission his charges were true and they weren't."

Patterson declined to say whether he will pursue a lawsuit against Dilday, but said the matter "has gone far beyond reinstatement . . . to libel and slander. I told the trustees I had been libeled and slandered and asked them to please investigate. They didn't deal with my request at all."

The professor added: "They haven't heard the last of this. I will press those charges against Dilday in my own way. Southern Baptists have a right to know about this whole thing. And they will."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

Bond commissions Eleanor Burt



Bond Church, Neshoba County, held a commissioning service for Mrs. Eleanor Burt, and presented her a certificate of appointment into the Mission Service Corps by the Home Mission Board, Sept. 1, 1985. Terry Hall, pastor, gave the charge.

The church covenanted to pray for Mrs. Burt and gave her a monetary

gift. She is now serving in the inner city area of Houston, Texas, in Christian social ministries under the direction of home missionary Mildred McWhorter. She served ten months earlier at the same station under the Christian Service Corps, and said she felt that God was leading her to serve there indefinitely.

Revival Dates

Tuckers Crossing, Laurel: Nov. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. each evening; Jimmy Dobson, evangelist, First, Jennings, La.; Brad Jones, music minister, Sylvaena (Smith); Eddie Bryant, pastor.

Sunshine, Pearl: Nov. 3-7; 7 p.m.; Crawford Williams, evangelist; Sam Creel, pastor.

Juniper Grove (Pearl River): Nov. 17-20; Roy Raddin, Greenville, preaching; David Raddin, pastor.

Pastors' Conference to meet at Van Winkle

The Pastors' Conference, Nov. 11 at Van Winkle Church, Jackson, will feature the preaching of Donnie Guy, Ron Herrod, and Gerald Harris, and the music of Jasper Butler and Marian Lee.

Guy is pastor of Van Winkle; Herrod is pastor of First Church, Kenner, La.; and Harris is pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Butler is a music evangelist from Shreveport, La.; and Mrs. Lee is a music evangelist from Petal. Instrumentalists will be Mrs. Clara Gore and Mrs. Nelda May.

The program kicks off at 9:30 that morning following fellowship time from 8:30 to 9:15, and is scheduled to close at 12:30 p.m. The Mississippi Baptist Convention begins at First Church, Jackson, at 1:30 p.m.

The title of Guy's message is "Good News America . . . Jesus Is Coming," Herrod's is "Good News America . . . Jesus is Lord," and Harris' is "Good News America . . . Jesus is Joy."

Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, will preside during election of officers for the conference.

Southwestern luncheon will be Nov. 12



Capsules

Largest in Italy: Assemblies of God

ROME, Italy (EP) — The Assemblies of God is now the largest evangelical denomination in Italy, with 942 congregations and 250 licensed ministers. The Assemblies of God in Italy also owns 46 FM radio stations, and publishes two national magazines.



Gregory

Denham

FORT WORTH, Texas — Franklin Denham will lead the annual meeting of Southwestern Seminary's alumni in Mississippi November 12.

The gathering will be at Holiday Inn Downtown in Jackson at 12 p.m. Tickets cost \$8.50 and should be ordered from Julian Fagan at 31 Washington St., Pontotoc, Miss. 38863.

Representing Southwestern will be Joel Gregory, former assistant professor of preaching. He and Denham will report on major achievements of the past year and Upward 90, Southwestern's new five-year development plan.

Southwestern alumni in 37 other states and Europe will gather in similar meetings this fall.

Pearce goes to Oregon for BSU work

Pete Pearce of Forest Church, left Oct. 5 for Eugene, Ore. where he will be working with the Baptist Student



Pearce

Union director, James Sanders, at the University of Oregon for the 1985-86 school year. One duty will be to establish a BSU at Lane Community College in Eugene. Pearce, a graduate of MC at Clarke, is working as a Home Mission Board volunteer. He served 1984 and 1985 as a staffer at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Israel population reaches 4,225,000

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP) — Israel's population is now 4,225,000, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. Of that population, 82.5 percent are Jews, 13.5 percent Moslems, 2.3 percent Christians, and 1.7 percent Druse and others. In the last Jewish year the population grew by about 1.8 percent, including growth in the Jewish population of 1.6 percent, and growth in the Moslem population of 3.2 percent. Of 99,000 infant born during the last year, about 75,000 were Jewish.

Off the Record

During the school assembly, the Glee Club began to warble out, "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." In the middle of the song, a woman began to cry. "I didn't know you were Irish," one of the teachers said, confronting her. "I'm not," the teacher sobbed. "I'm the new music teacher."



Rain at last

Betty Hovis, Southern Baptist volunteer from Charlotte, N.C., celebrates the arrival of the first rain in six months for the Moretan area of Togo, where she was helping with a Baptist development project. This rain marked the beginning of the best rains the country has had in five years, says Mike and Marsha Key, missionaries stationed in Moretan. A pond built by

North Carolina volunteers has filled to overflowing. One day when Mike was checking the pond, he met an African woman coming from her field. She pointed toward the lake, danced a jig and sang a song in thanksgiving for a lake full of water. (BP) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo

Foreign Board's 'wanted' list zeroes in again on preachers

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist foreign missionaries continued for the third straight year to narrow down their most urgent requests for co-workers, but still asked that three-fourths of them be preachers and church developers.

The requests were outlined Sept. 12-13 in an annual meeting among staffers of the Foreign Mission Board's offices of human resources and overseas operations. The 1986 list includes 503 requests, down from 589 for this year, 657 for 1984, and 817 for 1983.

The steady decline reflects a shift by missionaries to pin down their requests for co-workers only to those who fit into the broader evangelism strategy in each country. Missionaries began this process at the suggestion of the eight area directors who oversee Southern Baptist foreign mission work.

Missionaries asked this year for 228 preachers to spearhead the thrust of starting new churches and 140 other seminary-trained co-workers in 1986. They asked for 23 educators, 48 health-care workers, 11 media workers, 17 business people and 36 community development workers and support staff.

During the meeting R. Keith Parks, the foreign board's president, suggested country-by-country evangelism plans need to evolve further into all-inclusive worldwide steps to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is the goal of Southern Baptists to work with others in telling every living person about Jesus Christ by the year 2000.

At present, area directors use the priority lists from missionaries in each country, or mission, to draw up their own priorities according to area needs. Six of the eight area directors listed for 1986 at least 12 of their top 15 needs as seminary-trained people, in line with the board's purpose of evangelism resulting in churches.

In eastern South Africa, 14 of 15 priority needs are for preachers and church developers. Nine are for church starters—seven in Brazil. Some would work in urban areas each as Sao Luis, Brazil, and others in isolated

pioneer areas such as Pedro Juan Caballero, Paraguay. One priority need is for a mission office secretary in Argentina.

The east Asia area listed 13 priority needs as seminary-trained people. These include an English-language pastor near an American military base in Japan; a minister of music and education in Tokyo, Japan; two student evangelists, and nine church starters. Also priorities for east Asia are a business manager in Taipei, Taiwan; and a social worker in Macao, off the coast of China.

The areas of south and southeast Asia, middle America and the Caribbean, eastern and southern Africa, and western South America each listed 12 seminary-trained people in their 15 priority needs. A few of the other priorities in those areas include an agriculturist in the Philippines; a doctor in Indonesia; a data processor for the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas; a Chinese-language pastor in the Dominican Republic; a doctor in Ethiopia; an electronic maintenance engineer in Colombia; and a camp administrator in Peru.

Two dentists are priority needs for the west Africa area. One would work in The Gambia and the other in Benin, where government leaders say they welcome the help, said John Mills, area director. Both represent opportunities to provide Christian witness where otherwise it might be difficult, he added. Ten of the area's other priority requests are for preachers and church developers, two are for directors of urban social activity centers, and one is for a business manager in Mali.

In Europe and the Middle East a wide variety of specialties were listed as priority needs. These include seven seminary-trained people; an English teacher and specialist doctor in Jordan; a surgeon and operating room nurse in Yemen; a publishing administrator in Lebanon; a nurse educator in Gaza; and a print-shop technician in France. Four church starters are sought for the area.

Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

MC names Kitchings Alumnus of the Year

A man whose family name has been synonymous with Mississippi College for decades will be honored by the National Alumni Association with its "Alumnus of the Year" Award to be given during the annual Homecoming Luncheon scheduled for Nov. 9 on campus.



Harold T. Kitchings, Clinton, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be presented during the awards luncheon in the A. E. Wood Coliseum. Kitchings was selected from a list screened by a special committee of the Alumni Association.

Kitchings is a native of Clinton and practically grew up on the college campus where his father, the late A. A. Kitchings, was a longtime professor. He was active in student ac-

tivities and athletics while a student at the College. He is also a former president of the National Alumni Association.

Kitchings was graduated from Clinton High School and then earned the bachelor of arts degree, with distinction, from Mississippi College in 1948. He continued his education by receiving the master of divinity degree from the Southern Seminary in 1951 and did additional graduate study at the New Orleans Seminary in 1956-59, serving as a Teaching Fellow in Christian Ethics during the 1957-58 session there.

Mississippi College awarded him the honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1972.

He served as secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission from 1965-70 and was chairman of the Commission from 1970-71.

A former pastor of First Church, Kosciusko, Kitchings served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1974-76.

Broadmoor, Jackson, calls Jim Futral as pastor

Jim Futral, presently pastor of North Fort Worth Baptist Church in Texas, has accepted a call to become pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson.



Futral

He will assume his new duties at Broadmoor December 1, 1985. Broadmoor is Mississippi's second largest Baptist church with 3750 members, and Futral, 41, will become only the third pastor in the church's 32-year history. He will fill the pulpit vacated by David Grant, who retired Dec. 31, 1984, after 27

years at Broadmoor. The church's first pastor was Gordon M. Sansing, who served Broadmoor from 1953 until 1957.

Futral was born in Fort Smith, Ark., the son of another Baptist preacher, the late Guy Futral and Mary Sue Futral. He has lived most of his life in Mississippi, however, and graduated from high school in Starkville.

Futral attended Clarke College in Newton, and is a graduate of Blue Mountain College.

He received the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary, and the doctor of ministries degree from the same institution in 1980.

Shiloh centennial

Editor:

Oct. 6 was the beginning of the 2nd century for the Shiloh Baptist Church (Marion) and what a beginning! The Sunday School attendance soared to 173, surpassing the record high of 127; and more than a capacity crowd came for the morning and afternoon services. Rev. Porter Buckley, (1951-53) retired, Columbia, brought a wonderful morning message on "True Worship."

Several other former pastors took various parts in the days' events. The weather was ideal, old fashioned costumes lovely, the noon meal bountiful, the spirit superb, and the program great. Special music included the Sanctuary Choir, the Music Makers (ages 7-12), the preschoolers (ages 2-6), Rev. and Mrs. Benny Still of Woodville, Mrs. Tricia Bauer of Baton Rouge, Mona King of McComb, and Terry King of Shiloh. (These are children of the present pastor, Rev. and Mrs. Eddie King.)

The services were appropriately concluded as the congregation "went from the divine services to the waters" for the baptism of a young adult, Mark Binkley, who came into the church the Sunday before and requested baptism in the creek which runs nearby—along the church property.

May the memories of this tremendous day inspire us to be all we ought to be for future generations. It seems that the present might be harvest time for the seeds sown, the watering and cultivation done by others in the years gone by.

How fitting for the pastor who has also spent 40 faithful years in the ministry to be chosen a reaper at this time in his life.

This is said because the attendance for more than the past three months has been consistently above 100, where the Sundays of the same period a year ago were in the 60's and 70's and even the 50's. Prayer meeting attendance is in the 80's and 90's now and the spirit of the people is renewed and contagious. Numbers don't tell everything but they do tell something.

We want Mississippi to rejoice with us giving all glory to God for the things He's done at Shiloh.

Name withheld
by request

Chautauqua information

Editor:

I would like to thank you for the attention you have given to senior adult chautauquas in the last two issues of the Baptist Record. Your representations were most interesting and informative.

Surely many of our churches will see the need of providing more activities for senior adults who are vital to the program of the church. They are the backbone of our churches and still able—physically, mentally, and spiritually—to take important places of leadership in the work of the church.

Carolyn Madison
Parkway Church
Jackson

"Christian rock"

Editor:

My name is Edd Holloman, pastor for nine years of Corinth Baptist Church Heidelberg, Ms. Darin Wade was our summer youth worker who wrote to the Record and started all the letters about "Christian rock."

May I suggest that those that are for "Christian rock" read what David Wilkerson says about it in his book, "Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth."

I will say this about rock music, no one will deny that it was conceived in the slush pits of Hell and is sung and promoted by the devil's crowd, is being sung and played in places where the crowds are drinking, drugging, having sex, and murdering each other, even running over each other and stomping each other to death.

Then someone decided to take the rock music and add a few Christian words to it and bring it to church. (About like putting a pig on the altar, Romans 12:2.) Some say "We do it to get the young people to come." Why not serve beer and get the drunks to come?

Let the records show Corinth Baptist Church is a small country church

with 150 in Sunday School, 130 in Training Union, 100 in Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting, and on any given Sunday night there will be from 30 to 40 in our youth choir. At Corinth Baptist Church we do not sing Rock Gospel nor very little contemporary nor are we planning to.

Edd Holloman, Pastor
Corinth Church
Heidelberg

Mississippi Baptist historical information

Editor:

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission has set a deadline of Feb. 1, 1986, as the cut-off date for receiving biographical sketches of pastors and ordained ministers who have served Mississippi Baptist churches or denominational agencies in Mississippi. We urge those who have not returned a biographical information form to do so as soon as possible. We would like to include all the living ministers who are active or retired in the first volume of our projects to be published as a companion volume to L. S. Foster, Mississippi Baptist Preachers, 1895.

The biographical information forms already on file have been recorded, but since it has been about two years since the forms were first sent out, the commission would like to have an update on those ministers who have moved within that time. Please send additional information to the address below.

The recorded biographical information is on file in the historical collection on the Mississippi College campus and may be examined for accuracy at any time between now and February 1, 1986.

We feel that the new volumes of Mississippi Baptist Preachers will prove to be as much an asset to Mississippi Baptist heritage as Foster's book has been for the past 90 years.

Please call on the commission for your historical needs.

Jack W. Gunn,
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Baptist Historical
Commission
P. O. Box 51
Clinton, Mississippi 39056

Indian Fellowship gives Indian Christian leaders a say

By Chris Potts

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — In many ways, Southern Baptists' oldest missionary endeavor is probably their least successful.

The American Indian, an object of particular missionary zeal and affection among Baptists since Roger Williams first spearheaded denominational efforts among their tribes in the 1500s, remains an elusive target for evangelism. Of 14 million American Indians, only about 156,000 are known to have accepted Christ as personal Savior. Of those, only 3,000-4,000 are Baptists.

"There's been something wrong with our work," says Victor Kaneubbe, pastor of the First Indian Baptist Church of Phoenix. "We've been in the

work over 400 years and only three percent (of the Indians) are converted. It seems like we ought to have more Indian Christians than we do."

Toward that goal, Indian leaders have taken what Kaneubbe and others hope will prove to be a significant step by establishing the Native American Southern Baptist Fellowship — the first national Indian organization ever formed by Baptists. Kaneubbe was elected as the fellowship's first chairman.

The idea behind the fellowship is simple: give Indian Christian leaders a say in determining how best to lead other Indians to Christ. It's an idea that's been slow to settle with Baptists.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is the most successful evangelical denomination in reaching the Indian people," says Kaneubbe. Despite that, only 95 of the nation's 495 tribes have been evangelized. There are only 480 Indian Southern Baptist churches, and only half a dozen of those have more than 100 members.

Kaneubbe says the reason for such figures is twofold.

"(Southern Baptists') first problem has been in not letting Indians lead," he said, explaining many Indian churches have folded when whites attempted to incorporate them into their own congregations without regard to the unique worship and fellowship needs of the Indians.

"I think they've thought we would try to set up a separate and independent convention — which we would never do," said Kaneubbe. "Deaf people, Koreans, Spanish, and blacks all have their own churches. Why shouldn't Indians have their own church?"

The second factor which has weakened Indian evangelism, according to Kaneubbe, has been what he calls a "parental attitude" on the part of Baptist leaders, hesitant to let the Indians do things for themselves. That attitude, he feels, has sprung in large part from that of the U.S. government, which, for example, entered Indian evangelism around the turn of the century by assigning all the Indians

of a given state to one particular sect. For instance, New Mexico was assigned to the Roman Catholics, Arizona to the Lutherans.

Among Baptists, though, the "parental attitude" is beginning to change, says Kaneubbe, as witnessed by the formation of the Fellowship.

"Indian ministry training has really been slow," he says. But now "we have a lot of young Indian preachers who are educated, who are going to college."

The fellowship is the culmination of a dream nourished by Kaneubbe since his conversion, nearly 50 years ago.

Potts, a graduate student at the University of Arizona, is a free lance writer from Phoenix.

Suspects arrested in Mexico killing

By Erich Bridges

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Mexican police have arrested two suspects in connection with the murder of Southern Baptist representative James Philpot.

Mexico state police informed Southern Baptist representatives they arrested two men Oct. 14 in connection with the killing of Philpot, who was shot in the head Oct. 11 after the car he was driving was sideswiped by another car. A Mexican man with Philpot was shot and seriously injured. Two men in the other car, one of whom fired the gun, escaped before police arrived.

Police said a witness near the scene of the shooting took down the license plate number of the car containing the two men as it sped away. The license number led to the arrest of the two suspects.

"We presume (the suspects are) the two men in the car, but that's still in police hands," said Don Kammerdiener, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for Middle America and the Caribbean, who went to Mexico immediately after Philpot's death. "All the police have said to us is that they have picked up two suspects."

Police have not released the names of the suspects in custody, nor have formal charges been filed publicly. "They cannot do anything that would damage the investigation procedure to document the matter," said Guy Williamson, acting chairman of the Southern Baptist organization in Mexico. "They said just as soon as they had anything documented they'd share it with us."

The gray or light blue Volkswagen carrying the man who shot Philpot had not been located Oct. 18. Baptists

don't know whether the murder weapon has been recovered. Mexico state police inspector Damaso Tostado Salazar told Kammerdiener the empty shell casings found at the scene indicated the gun was a nine-millimeter pistol.

Abel Hernandez Figueroa, shot two or three times in the stomach, remains in a military hospital in the Mexico City area. Reports of this condition vary, but he apparently has not been able to give police any substantial information on the shooting.

Meanwhile, a different account of the car accident that preceded the shooting has emerged. Williamson initially reported the car Philpot was driving was sideswiped as the Volkswagen attempted to pass it on the right at high speed. Subsequent reports indicate the Volkswagen emerged from a one-way street as Philpot was driving past. It struck Philpot's car on the right and came to a stop on the curb.

After the shooting, the two men reportedly fled in the Volkswagen, speeding the wrong way back down the one-way street from which they came and nearly colliding head-on with another car. The driver of that car identified the Volkswagen's license plate number.

Kammerdiener emphasized no evidence has emerged to support a motive for the killing other than rage over the car accident. "Up to now the facts as we know them do not warrant any sort of interpretation other than what we know—that the two cars hit and a man jumped out and started shooting," he said.

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



Southern Baptist representative James Philpot, right, who headed the organization of Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico, was shot and killed over a minor traffic accident just three weeks after a major earthquake struck Mexico. Philpot, like many Baptist representatives in Mexico, had been involv-

ed since then in quake relief efforts. Here he observes as teams of volunteer seminary students, faculty and local church members assemble bags of food to feed earthquake victims. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge.

Supreme Court justices take second pornography dispute

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court announced Oct. 21 it will hear a second case this term testing local communities' legal ability to limit the sale and distribution of pornographic materials.

Already set for argument next month is review of a Seattle suburb's zoning ordinance forbidding adult movie theaters within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, parks or schools. A federal appeals court ruled the ordinance violated the First Amendment and held Renton, Wash., failed to establish "substantial governmental interest" in restricting freedom of speech.

The new case pits local officials in Erie County, N.Y., against a chain of stores selling pornographic video cassettes. Nearly two years ago, the local sheriff obtained a warrant for seizure of several video films depicting a variety of sexual activities, including intercourse and oral sex. Local officials then used the films to charge the stores' owners on several misdemeanor counts of violating New York state's obscenity law.

But before the case could come to trial, the store owners successfully sought suppression of the evidence, convincing a state court judge the sheriff's office did not have probable cause to seize the films. Two other state courts — including New York's highest appeals panel — agreed. The county then appealed to the nation's high court, which is expected to decide the case sometime next spring.

Current constitutional doctrine on pornography and obscenity dates to a 1957 case, Roth v. U.S., in which the court set down the foundational principle that obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment.

Another landmark decision, Miller v. California, rendered in 1973, held that local communities may set their

own standards to define what is obscene material. Nationwide standards, the court ruled then, are inappropriate because views on the subject vary so widely from place to place.

At the same time, the court set forth a three-pronged test as basic guidelines for determining if a work that depicts or describes sexual conduct is obscene. Under the test, courts must determine (1) whether the average person, applying contem-

porary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (2) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law, and (3) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

Stan Hastey writes for the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.

Cliff Temple answers call for volunteers at Central Hills

The Brotherhood Department of Mississippi recently issued a call for volunteers at Central Hills during September. This call to missions was answered by the Brotherhood and W.M.U. of Cliff Temple Church, Natchez (Adams).

The following men and women were working alongside and fellowshiping with other Mississippi Baptists as they helped with construction work during the weeks of Sept. 9-13 and Sept. 16-20: Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Stacy, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hill, Carl Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Dorpus Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Dowdy, pastor and wife.

"Cliff Temple has been a mission-minded church for some time," says Cindy Bobo, church secretary. "Among our recent endeavors are sending groups to Pennsylvania the last four years to conduct revivals, crusade work, Backyard Bible Clubs, campground and intercity Vacation Bible Schools.

"We have members involved in Campers-On-Mission. And just recently some of our Brotherhood have been helping a sister church, Springfield Church, Natchez, construct its new education facility."

Southern Alumni luncheon set

LOUISVILLE, KY. — The annual meeting of Mississippi alumni and friends of Southern Seminary has been set for Nov. 12 at 12:30 p.m. at the Skyroom of the Baptist Building, Jackson.

J. J. Owens, senior professor of Old Testament Interpretation, will be the featured speaker.

Tickets may be obtained for \$7.00 from Wayne Coleman, 573 Houston Ave., Jackson, MS 39209.



Owens

GOOD NEWS AMERICA — GOD LOVES YOU

PASTORS' CONFERENCE

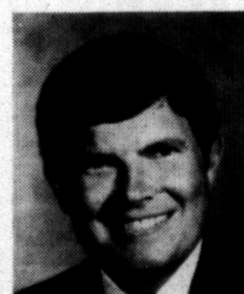
Van Winkle Baptist Church

Jackson, MS

November 11, 1985

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Featured preachers



Gerald Harris
Pastor,
Colonial Heights
Jackson, MS



Ron Herrod
Pastor, FBC
Kenner, LA



Donnie Guy
Pastor, Van Winkle
Jackson, MS

Featured singers

Jasper Butler, Shreveport, LA
Mrs. Marian Lee, Hattiesburg, MS

Pastors, staff members, and lay people all across the state are invited.
For more information call (601) 922-3513

Scrapbook

Obsession with autumn

Before winter's icy blasts
force us indoors,
memory of Elena's fury
begins to dim—
time out for autumn
becomes an obsession
with me.
Sumac's scarlet banners,

the hickory's old gold; wild asters
splashing their fringed purple—
pumpkins like fallen orange moons,
blue ribbon cane
tempting my appetite,
all emphasize the seasonal changes—
merit my attention.

Against the limitless blue
of the sky,
a band of snow geese
sound their haunting call.
I, too, long to leave
the familiar earth, rise,
float over the distant hills
in a multicolored balloon,
view God's miracle
of red, tangerine, bronze below.
This day will turn
into cherished thoughts.

Humbly I thank the Lord
for his loving care
through stormy weather
and tranquil
hours.

—Eunice Barnes
Pascagoula

The woman who held the world on her shoulders

Morning dawned, and two women arose to pray.
They lived in twin houses and both had troubled lives.
One said, "Lord, I'd never get through the day
with all these problems, so take my burdens away."
And he did.

The lady next door said a long, pious prayer.
Then she tugged and placed the world on her shoulders,
whimpering, "My burdens are greater than I can bear."
And she hardly relinquished her world at night.
As she tossed and turned, she held on tight,
while the lady in the other twin house went to sleep
after yielding her burdens to the Lord to keep.

Like the bronze leaves of autumn I faltered
and felt tossed from a great height.
I panicked without wisdom one night
in front of the twin houses to know which was mine.
Had I not many times hauled the weight,
the oppression of the world through the gate?

Yet we know only Jesus Christ can hold up the world,
He who said, "Fear not. I have overcome the world."
Then I smiled to see me inside the front room
of that haven, that harbor called home,
a child in Christ who simply believes.
And how like me to be stuffing golden leaves
from the park into the big brown vase!

—Violet Tackett, McComb

October silence

I love the golden silence of the rise
or set of sun,
Early in the morning or when the
day is done,
When all my chores are finished
and I have stopped to rest,
I stand out on the hillside and see
it at its best.
Then early in the morning when all
is still and quiet.
I look to the eastern horizon at a
most breathtaking sight.
The sunrise growing gigantic as
rays shoot through the trees,

Only God can still my heart at
splendor such as these.
Their amber, sparkling streaks
light up the whole wide
world,
As entranced I watch his mighty
works throughout the
universe.
His great power and majesty
coming from his throne,
And all of this in silence as he
lights my heart and home.
—Velma A. Windham
Taylorsville

Off the Record

Come clean! For years the farmer's
wife complained about her husband
leaving the cap off the toothpaste.
Finally, he decided that it was silly to
go on doing something that was an-
noying to her. So he started the prac-
tice of conscientiously replacing the
cap after each brushing.

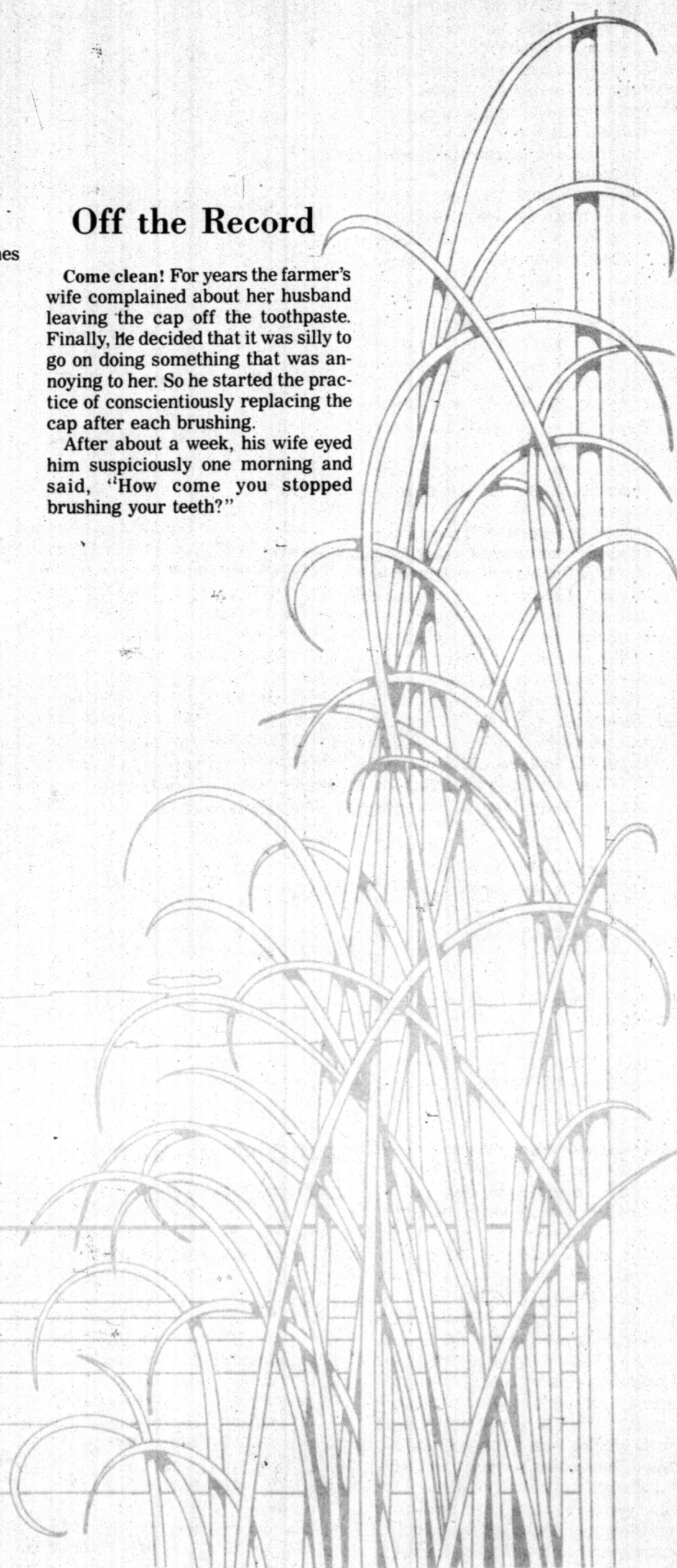
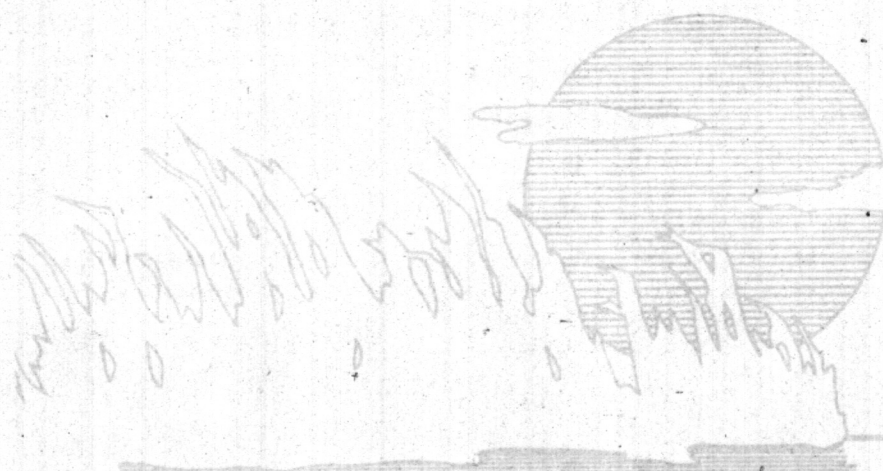
After about a week, his wife eyed
him suspiciously one morning and
said, "How come you stopped
brushing your teeth?"

Confidence

Wars and pestilence
All around,
The world stands
On shaky ground.
My heart would freeze
With chilling fright
If there were no God
To keep things right.

I see his handwork
Every day
In growing things,
The sun's bright ray.
Though bad news
Flash with drum and flare
My faith stands firm;
My God is there.

—Nell Johnson
Booneville



Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Autumn is gold-plated

Why is it that when I go fishing, they always say "You should have been here yesterday. They were really biting then!" And when I go on a vacation trip, streamers in the towns remind of parades just past or announce festivals "next week."

Sorghum Festival had been "last Saturday" when we spent the night at Blairsville, Georgia. We missed the syrup sopping contest. But we didn't miss the splendor of the mid-October leaves from Dahlonega across the Appalachian Trail to Hiwassee, and all the way to the top of Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest mountain.

Rain had threatened early Monday morning when Mama and W. D. and I left Betty's house at Hogansville. The day before, we'd had a family dinner at Betty's with her and Luann and Bubba and Karen and Tom and their baby, Heather. On freeways around Atlanta, there wasn't much time to think about weather—only "Are we going to miss that truck?"

We didn't pan for gold in Dahlonega's old mines, but a gold nugget could not have pleased me much better than the scoop of cherry-chocolate chip in the old-fashioned ice cream parlor.

Hickory gold enriched every hillside. Curve after curve, as we climbed, the glow of sunbeams gold-plated the lemon and scarlet leaves that trembled and flickered in the wind. Autumn in radiance reached out in the branches above and alongside the road, as if to say "Welcome! Rejoice and sing today." That afternoon—not the week before or the week after, the leaves along that road were at their peak of beauty.

We rounded one curve and a man stood beside a bench, his pick-up parked nearby. Before him were spread his wares. Coals glowed under two barrels: smoke smells stung my nose. In his barrels peanuts boiled. We bought four big red apples and a bright jar of sorghum syrup.

The Chestatee River is as clear a stream as I ever saw—or it was. In a crossroads cafe on its banks W. D. and I rubbed our elbows on a greasy table, and made the acquaintance of a few flies. Mama and I inspected the antique painting of flowers in the cafe's restroom and observed that it matched the peeling green and pink

wallpaper. The coffee we bought is the first I've seen that even W. D. could not drink. It was so black and thick it was practically green. Luckily they had a patio at the place. We leaned over the rail and polluted the Chestatee with caffeine.

Vogel State Park, a favorite of Georgians, I'm told, was supposed to be our destination. We thought there'd be plenty of cabins so late in the year. But we thought wrong. That's why we sorrowfully left its emerald lake, for Blairsville. Next day Hiwassee's lake was extremely low, but the red dogwoods that ringed its green depths looked like Christmas had come early.

It was hot in the valley, but too cold on the top of Brasstown Bald for the picnic lunch we planned to eat there. The car smelled hot on the way up the 4,748 foot mountain, and started smoking on the way down, but we decided that the air-conditioner was the trouble.

We drove up to the parking lot near the summit and took the tourist van (\$1.50 each) to the visitor center and look-out tower at the top.

"It covers Dixie like the dew." Wasn't that the slogan of the *Atlanta Journal*? Well, quilts cover north Georgia like the dew. Even on top of Brasstown Bald. Mama's hobby is making quilts, so she got into a discussion with the woman, a park employee, who was quilting a flower garden quilt in the visitor center. We saw quilts in antique shops at Helen and on the stair railing at the lodge of Unicoi Park.

It was only by chance that we found a room at Unicoi, when someone didn't claim a reservation. We ate dinner in the lodge restaurant, where the evening buffet was \$6.75. Yellow chrysanthemums along the walkways of the lodge were as big as dahlias.

I'm reading a new book, *A Grateful Heart*, by Margie Kirkland. She says, "Just as fall's refreshing breath inspires new beginnings, so can it be for us as we enter in to the gates of the autumn years. . . . Autumn need not represent the withering of happy times, but the open flowering of many good things ahead." And she reminds us of a wise philosopher's saying, "All the sugar is at the bottom of the cup."

Railroad workers issued rules on alcohol, drugs

The Transportation Department has issued regulations designed to reduce alcohol and drug abuse by railroad employees.

The rules mark the first time the federal government has sought directly to correct such abuse by rail workers, a problem generally acknowledged to be widespread with serious safety implications.

Since 1975 drunk or drugged railroad employees have caused 48 train accidents, involving 37 deaths, 80 injuries and \$34 million in property damage, the department reported.

New regulations require pre-employment drug screening for people applying for safety-related railroad jobs. They also require toxicological tests for trainmen involved in serious accidents.

—Wall Street Journal

Thursday, October 31, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Lebanese Baptists launch radio station in Beirut

By Art Toalston

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Lebanese Baptists are launching a radio station in Beirut as part of a continuing ministry in the midst of their country's 10-year-old civil war.

The 2,000-watt FM stereo station will provide evangelical programming. There are about three dozen radio stations in the Beirut area, most operated by the government or competing Islamic and Maronite Catholic political groups.

The station, to be operated and primarily financed by the Lebanese Baptist Convention, has a potential for reaching 1.7 million people in Beirut area, where there are seven Baptist churches.

Its programming, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, will include semiclassical music; seven-minute Christian teaching sessions on the hour; two-minute Bible reading segments on the half hour; public service announcements, such as locations where drug abusers or people with physical injuries can receive rehabilitation; and special programs, such as Bible correspondence courses and live broadcasts of worship services.

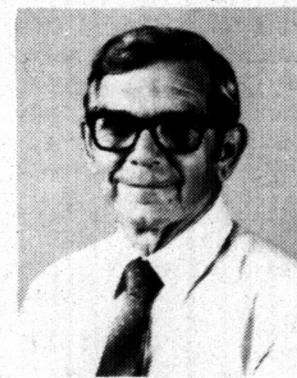
These worship services broadcasts ultimately may bolster church

membership, according to Pete Dunn, Southern Baptist missionary who directs the Baptist Center for Mass Communications in east Beirut. "A lot of people will never go into a Baptist church because they're afraid

of it. But if they can hear and see that it won't 'bite' them, then maybe doors will open for our local churches.

"We're going to try to present what Baptists believe," Dunn added, "but (Continued on page 12)"

What do you say about planned growth in giving?



Mitchell

The first time I heard of the Plan, I said, "What a blessing to man!" First I must see the need, Then I tell God, "Indeed, I will grow up and give all I can."

J. C. Mitchell

J. C. Mitchell
Director of missions
Lowndes Association

Japan Baptists spend leave in Texas

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas — Rennie Ohtani, Southern Baptists' first music missionary to Japan, is glad she's no longer a foreign missionary.

It's not that she disliked missionary service. She's happy being "just a Japan Baptist."

Mrs. Ohtani, originally from Purvis, Miss., never left Japan or the church she served as music minister. Instead, she married the associate pastor, who is now the pastor.

Now the two are visiting Southwestern Seminary as national guest consultants in the World Mission and Evangelism Center. Keigo Ohtani, pastor of Japan's largest Baptist church, is on a 10-month sabbatic leave to catch the "high spirit of American Southern Baptists."

Ohtani began his ministry 20 years ago as associate pastor of Tokyo's Oi Baptist Church, which his father founded. When his father retired, Ohtani assumed the pastorate.

While most Japanese churches average about 40 in attendance, the Oi church has 700-800 in Sunday School.

But things haven't always been so bright for the Oi church. Ohtani's father began as a street preacher after his own conversion in a small prayer gathering.

Until after World War II, the elder Ohtani faced stiff resistance to Christian worship. But after the war, "my father began worship again before anyone else did," Ohtani said. Even the police came to ask him for counsel.

"Lots of American soldiers came to our assembly," he said. "We received help from high-ranking officers."

Before long, his father discovered that "every soldier who had a bright warm faith was a Baptist," he said. The Oi congregation studied the Baptist way and decided they would be Baptists. The entire congregation was rebaptized.

Since Oi Baptist Church is the example to others in Japan, the Ohtanis have "nowhere to observe what to do next," he said. That's why they've come to America. Their stops will include Southwestern, First Baptist Church in Houston and the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

While at Southwestern, they will speak in classes and work with students who want to learn about missions. She will also teach in the music school.

They hope their time in America will show them new ways to develop believers. "Most churches in Japan are pastor-centered," Ohtani said. "I want to give responsibility to the people."

He's already made a good start. During his absence, laymen of the church will carry out all phases of teaching and preaching.

The Ohtanis' concern while in the United States is to learn better way of fulfilling this mission. Evangelism is important, they acknowledge. But "after you win them, you have to grow them," Mrs. Ohtani said. The Oi church has achieved what most peo-

ple would consider numerical success, but the Ohtanis' want to go one step further — to grow the people into mature Christians.

Since most Japanese Baptists are first-generation Christians, the Ohtanis are working to extend the faith. One of Mrs. Ohtani's responsibilities has been to develop church programs to win and nourish the children of Christian parents.

In Japan, people assimilate Buddhism, Shintoism and Christianity at their convenience, Ohtani said. The people "have so many gods that it is hard to choose only one."

To these people, the Ohtanis' proclaim a simple message: "Jesus Christ is the one God."

Mark Wingfield writes for Southwestern Seminary.



Mr. and Mrs. Ohtani

Just for the Record



Wade Church, recently held a recognition service and reception for its GAs. Girls participating were, front row, left to right, Cathryn Tanner, Rachel Howard, Christy Simmons, Dani Norton, Nina Breland and Adrienne Saucier. Second row, Amy Jordan, Rhonda Ard, Kimberly Shattles, Alison Saucier, Christy Tanner and Julie Naramore. Third row, Cherie Persons, Misty Waltman, Christy Persons, Melissa Naramore and Jennifer Simmons. Not pictured, Jamie Parker and leaders, Cindi May, Stacy Gray, Barbara Naramore, Karen Holloway, Melody Scott, and Kathy Persons.



Griffith Memorial Church celebrated the first anniversary of its satellite location with a ground breaking service, Sept. 15. The ground breaking signals the beginning of a four-phase building program, the first phase of which is a multi-purpose facility with a worship capacity of 160, scheduled for completion in March 1986. Located at the entrance of the Brookleigh subdivision in south Jackson, the church now worships in a mobile chapel provided by the Hinds-Madison Association.

Pictured is the building committee, from left to right, they are Marvin Martin, chairman; Anthony Brown, Mrs. Melody Adams, Mrs. Janet Lombardo, Gary Stewart, O. E. Canterbury, Lamar Hancock, Douglas Norsworthy, and Winston Fletcher, vice-president of D.S.A. Not pictured is S. L. Palmer. Gary Knapp is pastor.



Building Committee members at First Baptist Church, Quitman, broke ground, Oct. 20, for the approximately 9,000 square foot addition to the church building. Present for the occasion were Mildred Ivy, church housekeeper; Bobbie Nell Dabbs; Bea Reynolds; Ruth Dabbs; Tamar Moore; Leon Carter Jr., chairman of the Building Committee; Rex Yancey, pastor; James C. Sykes and Ronnie Sykes, contractors; and Gilford Dabbs III, deacon chairman. Not pictured are Roy Patton and Bobby

Rutledge, members of the Building Committee.

First, Quitman recently completed a Building Fund Campaign that generated \$390,000 over a three-year period. The Hallelujah Goal was set at \$400,000. Members of the Steering Committee were Gilford Dabbs III, chairman, Jim Blair, G. F. Dabbs Jr., Chuck McClure, Peggy Carter, Charlotte Brown, and Larry Shirley.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Carlisle celebrated their 25th anniversary at Big Ridge Church in Biloxi. The church family presented them with a new 1986 Dodge Diplomat after a "Dinner-on-the-Ground" given in their honor. David Howard, former chairman of the deacons, is shown giving the keys to the Carlises.



"Compelled to Excel" was the theme of the Acteens' and GAs' recognition service at First Church, Pearl. GAs receiving badges were, front row (l to r), Debbie Stewart, Suzanne Stewart, and Jennie Tucker. Second row (l to r), are Kristen Norris, Bridget Presley, and Amber Swilley. Acteens recognized were, back row (l to r), Amanda West, queen; Karen Porch, queen; Michelle Porch, queen-with-scepter; and Mary Lott, queen-with-scepter. Acteens not pictured are Tiffany Thomas and Kellie Bradshaw. GA leaders are Vaderia Walker and Judy McCarty. Acteen leaders are Dee Smith and Patricia Mounce.

Minnesota court overturns tax ruling

ST. PAUL, Minn. (EP) — The Minnesota Supreme Court reversed the State Tax Court in August in cases involving tax-exempt status of property next to two Lutheran churches in Minneapolis. Buildings near St. John's Lutheran Church and Victory Lutheran Church are exempt from taxes, the court ruled.

In both cases, the buildings are occupied by couples who live rent-free, in return for working for the churches. The court ruled that "the test is whether the property is devoted to and reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of church purposes," and concluded that "the property is reasonably necessary to the accomplishment of church purposes."

Sidon Church, Greenwood hosted the "Proclaimers" Oct. 27, 11 a.m. service. The group composed mostly of high school and college students sang, gave testimonies, and showed slides of summer missions in Montana. The group will be returning to Montana Thanksgiving and next summer to continue in service there. Eli Wiltshire is pastor of Sidon.

Starting from scratch is easier when you've got some — Dan Bennett Family Weekly

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"Holy program" worship decried in spiritual awakening meet

Thursday, October 31, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Staff Changes

NEW ORLEANS — Spiritual awakening is needed in the land. Only God can bring it, but Christians have unconfessed sins that are blocking the prayer lines to God and his blessings.

That was the message delivered to more than 620 persons gathered here this past weekend at the Louisiana Regional Conference on Prayer for Spiritual Awakening, held at New Orleans Seminary.

Jimmy Draper, former Southern Baptist Convention president and one of eight conference speakers, said, "We're going to have to confess our sin . . . We're going to have to become a family again . . . We're all under siege. We need each other . . . We need to learn to intercede for each other. We need to learn to submit to each other."

Bertha Smith, the 97-year-old former missionary to China, related how the great Shantung revival in the 1930s was preceded by years of prayers. The revival came when the missionaries confessed their sins to God and each other.

Jack Taylor, preaching from Proverbs 28:13, said the church is "soft on sin," and "God will not come in mercy floods where there is unconfessed sin."

In a sermon punctuated by "amens" and applause, Taylor, president of Dimensions in Christian Living, said the response to sin called for in the Bible is to "confess it and quit it."

Several conference speakers also

emphasized that Southern Baptist programs are not the key to revival. "Victory is caused by Christ . . . You can't cause awakening," said Robert Hamblin, vice president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board.

"Paul (the apostle) didn't worry about a program," Hamblin, a former Mississippi pastor, said. Paul knew people needed Christ so he went and told them.

J. Edwin Orr, president of Oxford Association for Research in Revival, said, "Today, we worship Father, Son, and holy program. We have a program for everything, whereas the Holy Spirit is the key to revival."

Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, said, "As long as we trust our organization, our material wealth, and affluence, our popular preaching, our shallow evangelism, our Madison Avenue promotion, there will never be awakening."

"I don't think God's too impressed with Southern Baptists. I know he's not too impressed with this Southern Baptist," Draper said.

He said God's people must be desperate before a great spiritual awakening will come. "We're too secure. Our strength has become our weakness. We're the best trained, best equipped denomination in the history of the world, and I believe we ought to be," Draper said. "But, because we are, we have a tendency to trust our training, and our equipping, and we've become such as God cannot use."

Draper listed a number of forces that "militate against revival." Among those forces, he said, are theological extremes. "Liberalism militates against revival because the authority of God's Word has always been accepted in times of revival . . . But, I know that an unbending and a harsh fundamentalism or ultraconservatism is just as much an enemy to real revival as liberalism is."

"Somehow there has got to be the acceptance of those things that are basic and the understanding and the realization of who God is and what God wants to do with an acceptance that we're not the final end of all knowledge and authority and with the willingness to accept others who may not see exactly as we see . . ." Draper said.

All eight conference speakers stressed that awakening must come from God. Orr said, "The outpouring of God's Holy Spirit is exclusively the work of God. No man can organize it; no man can arrange it . . ."

"The outpouring of God's Holy Spirit first of all results in the reviving of the church, the body of believers, that's revival in its truest sense," Orr said. "It's the work of God, with the response of believers."

Mississippi Baptist activities

Nov. 3-9 Royal Ambassador Emphasis Week (BRO) Emphasis)
Nov. 8-9 Acteens Mother/Daughter Weekend; Camp Garaywa; 5 p.m., 8th-3 p.m., 9th (WMU)

Salem (Marshall) has called Randy White to join its staff as minister of music and youth.

Baxterville Church, (Lamar) has recently called Kim James as minister of music, and Grady Ross as minister of youth. James, a native of the Dixie community of Hattiesburg, is the son of Mrs. Grace James and the late Louis James. He attended Pearl River Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi. James began his duties Sept. 15.

Ross, a native of Biloxi, is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Ross of Vancleave. He is a full time ministerial student at William Carey College. Ross began his duties on Sept. 4. Bert Burleson is pastor.

Tom F. Rayburn began his duties as pastor of Second Avenue Church, Laurel, on Sept. 16. He goes from First Church, Florence, where he served as pastor for three and one-half years.

A native of Meridian, he received his education at Meridian Junior College, Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., and the Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Rayburn has served as trustee of William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. He is also an Interfaith

Witness Associate with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rayburn is married to the former Mary Steed of Nacogdoches, Texas, and they have three daughters.

Tyrone Wells is now serving Central Church, Brandon, as interim pastor. He is a graduate of Belhaven College and is currently working on his master's degree in counseling at Mississippi State University. He has pastored churches in both Scott and Leake Counties.

Enterprise Church, Mississippi Association, has called Don Henderson of McComb as interim pastor.

Terry Lee Long has resigned as interim pastor of Lily Orchard Church, Pascagoula, to accept a call from Goodyear Church, Picayune.

Ben Yarber has resigned as pastor of Artesia Church, Lowndes County, to accept the pastorate of Canaan Church, Columbus.

Union Church, Wilkinson County, has called Charles Holifield as pastor. He was pastor of Liberty Church for ten years before his retirement last spring.

Longview (Oktibbeha) has called Dudley Brasher as minister of music and youth.

Carl Nickles has resigned as pastor at Double Springs, Oktibbeha County. He will continue to reside in the area and will be available for supply preaching.

Paul Simmons to speak at MC Spell lectures

Paul Simmons, professor of Christian Ethics at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will be the speaker for the annual Spell Lectureship at Mississippi College, Nov. 4-6.

Simmons will be addressing the student body, faculty and staff, and public during the 10 a.m. chapel services on Monday and Wednesday. He will speak to the Baptist Student

Union on Monday and will make appearances on several Bible classes and in the School of Nursing during his visit on campus.

The Spell Lectureship is endowed by the Howard E. Spells of Clinton, both of whom, continue to be active in the life of the College. Dr. Spell served on the faculty of Mississippi College from 1927 until his retirement in 1973.

High court hears arguments in 'equal access' dispute

WASHINGTON (BP) — In what may be the most important religion-in-public-schools dispute since the Supreme Court banned state-prescribed prayer and Bible readings more than two decades ago, the nation's high tribunal heard arguments in a celebrated "equal access" case to determine if high school pupils have a constitutional right to use school property for religious meetings.

The case, *Bender v. Williamsport* (Pa.) Area School District, dates to 1981 and an unsuccessful effort by a student religious group to meet for prayer and Bible study during a designated, twice-weekly activities period for extra-curricular activities. Although the group, which called itself Petros, was initially given per-

mission to meet, the school principal reversed himself after the group's first half-hour meeting.

Led by senior student Lisa Bender, Petros asked the school board to reverse the principal's decision, and when it refused, Bender and other students took both to court. After a trial in a federal district court, the students won.

But one member of the Williamsport school board, John C. Youngman Jr., appealed that decision to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, where a divided panel ruled 2-1 that to permit Petros to meet would violate the Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion.



"My annuity check, along with my social security, pays my rent, car expenses, light and phone bills and a little more. I watch all my corners just like I did when I was a preacher's wife.

"However, if I'd had medical bills, it would not have been enough. With hospital and medical bills going up so fast, unless churches increase support of the

Annuity, it's going to be almost impossible for older people in the future to have the kind of care they need."

Mrs. B. B. (Virginia) McGee
pastor's widow



Southern Baptist Annuity Board

Lebanese Baptists launch radio station in Beirut

(Continued from page 9)
in the context of the Lebanese Baptists."

Five Baptists nationals are being trained as full-time workers, two others as part-time. The station will be housed in the basement of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in east Beirut and its antenna will be atop the building.

In another area of Baptist ministry in the city, Dunn works with two Baptist relief committees, one in east Beirut and one in west Beirut.

Throughout Beirut, there are refugees "everywhere," perhaps as many as 200,000 who have been left homeless during the course of the 10-year civil war, Dunn said.

"We've got a lot of people here who are in desperate need. Now, how to meet those needs in a short time and on a long-term basis is our problem. And this is a problem faced by the government as well as relief agencies. If there were some light at the end of the tunnel, we would sort of know how to get towards that light. But at the present time, it's a dead end.

"They (refugees) are taking over old buildings... abandoned buildings... buildings that have been bombed out," Dunn said. "Some are living in quite squalid conditions, but at least they're covered. And they're trying to get food as best they can."

Refugees being sheltered in Baptist facilities are primarily from the Mio-Mio Baptist Church. The congregation of 30 to 40 people was scattered when Shiite Muslim and Palestinian forces stormed Sidon and surrounding

villages after Israeli troops vacated the south Lebanon area earlier this year. An estimated 100,000 Lebanese were left homeless.

One Mio-Mio church family, for example, lost a home and grocery store. One widow lost a home which had cost her life savings to build.

"They got out... with the clothes on their backs," said Ed Nicholas, chairman of the Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon.

Badar Street Baptist Church in east Beirut and Bikfaya Baptist Church in the village of Bikfaya about 20 miles north of Beirut have taken in some of these refugees.

Some Mio-Mio church members fled to the south, along Lebanon's border with Israel. There has been no contact with them, Nicholas said.

Fighting in Tripoli, to the north of Beirut, had Baptists in Beirut wondering about the welfare of members of the Tripoli Baptist Church and their pastor, Elias Saleeby. Through early October, no word had been received from him for about six weeks.

Nicholas believes Saleeby and others have sought refuge in a mountain region near Tripoli, as they did once before in the face of intense fighting. During September, more than 500 people were killed and 1,000 wounded.

The scattering of the Mio-Mio congregation is the most severe setback to Lebanese Baptists since the early days of the civil war, 1975-77, when several churches closed, had their buildings seized or looted and, in one case, saw their pastor flee for his life. Today, minimal numbers attend

the Riyak Baptist Church because of continuing tension in the Bekaa Valley east of Beirut. And turmoil in west Beirut has resulted in many members of the Ras Beirut Baptist Church moving to east Beirut.

Even so, Ras Beirut, which had about 55 members, has provided finances pivotal for getting the new FM station on the air, according to Dunn.

Art Toalston writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Homecomings

Strayhorn (Northwest): homecoming and harvest day, Nov. 10; worship, 11 a.m.; Claude Howe, former pastor, guest speaker; dinner on grounds; afternoon, musical program; Bobby Cossey, pastor.

Eden (Yazoo): Nov. 3, homecoming; morning service, 10:30; 1:30 p.m., song service; dinner on grounds; no night service; Joey Bennett, former pastor; Jim Pender, pastor.

Byram (Hinds): homecoming, Nov. 10; Sunday School, 9:45; worship service, 11 a.m.; Jimmy Autry, First, Westwego, La., preaching; Pete Bates, Booneville, leading music; lunch served, family life center; afternoon

music program presented by the Diplomats of Lakeshore Church and the Hardy Family of Byram; no evening service; Ken Harrison, pastor.

Chunky, Chunky: homecoming, Nov. 3; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship, 10:50; Carless Evans, who served as interim pastor in 1983 and 1984, guest speaker; lunch served, family life building immediately following the morning worship service; afternoon musical program, 1:30 p.m.; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Isn't it strange how often small talk comes in large doses? — W. A. Nance in Holiday Inn Magazine

National religious coalition sets sights on elections

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP) — Conservative Christianity embraced conservative politics in a three-day meeting in the nation's capital aimed at getting more "born again Christians" elected to public office.

The conference on "How to Win an Election," held Oct. 15-17 at the Shoreham Hotel, offered a blend of spiritual enthusiasm and political pragmatism in a series of addresses and "nuts-and-bolts" workshops.

Sponsored by the American Coalition for Traditional Values, the meeting attracted more than 300 pastors and laypersons interested in running for public office themselves or in supporting campaigns for other candidates who support ACTV's list of "traditional values."

ACTV, a political umbrella of fundamentalist leaders begun 18 months ago, claims to represent "some 45 million Christians" who want to "restore traditional moral and spiritual values" in America. Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley and former SBC presidents James T. Draper and Adrian Rogers serve on the coalition's executive board.

An ACTV staff member said none of the three Southern Baptist members of the executive board were present for the meeting.

Three of the conference's nine major speakers were Southern Baptists: Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and ACTV Chairman Tim LaHaye, an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

Other speakers include Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.), Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell; Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.); James Kennedy, senior minister of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.).

The battery of speakers urged fundamentalist and conservative Christians to begin to gear up now for the 1986 and 1988 national elections.

Helms told the group that winning the 1986 elections "could determine the survivability of this nation." Conservative values "need to be revised, restored, and expanded" through

political action, he said. But Helms also cautioned the group to "be careful. There are powerful forces in our country who want to make sure you don't succeed. They don't mind if you get into politics as long as you leave your values behind."

To help conservative candidates succeed in 1986, LaHaye announced that ACTV's executive board had agreed during the conference to launch a massive direct mail campaign, using the mailing lists of its supporting organizations. The goal, he

LaHaye pointed out 1986 will be a critical year for consolidating the gains made by the New Right in the 1980 elections.

said, is to enlist 500 volunteers from "Bible-believing churches" to each of 100 targeted congressional districts. The project LaHaye said, would require about \$3 million, but "I think it's a plan God wants us to fulfill."

LaHaye pointed out 1986 will be a critical year for consolidating the gains made by the New Right in the 1980 elections. "We're approaching the sixth anniversary since the great conservative groundswell swept 11 conservatives into the Senate and, thank God, swept out 11 liberals," he said. "But four defeats in 1986 could change control of the Senate — and the liberals already control the House."

LaHaye also announced the executive board approved a resolution asking the President and Congress to declare Nov. 17, the Sunday before President Ronald Reagan's summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, as a national day of prayer. He said the resolution called for an emphasis in the negotiations "away from offensive nuclear weapons toward a strategic nuclear defense system" proposed by the administration.

The board, LaHaye said, wanted President Reagan to negotiate from a position of strength. "We were con-

cerned that the President will be pressured by those do-gooders who want to treat them (the Soviets) as credible human beings rather than the vicious gangsters that they are," he said. "What we have to understand is that we're negotiating with gangsters."

While opposition to communism, along with abortion and "secular humanism," dominated the meeting, speakers addressed a variety of other issues, including prayer in the public schools, terrorism, pornography, and the federal budget deficit.

Participants also got practical advice from New Right political strategist Paul Weyrich and others on how to run a campaign, raise funds, deal with the news media and organize volunteers in the local church.

While Weyrich said "more races have been lost by our kind of people because of a lack of strategy more than virtually anything else."

Falwell, whose Moral Majority organization claims 6.5 million members, noted that "a few years ago, it was a sin to vote" in the eyes of many conservative religious leaders. "I used to preach against political involvement," he confessed. But he said the questions of his children caused him to realize that "America was going to hell because millions of Christians weren't doing a blooming thing about it."

Falwell said there is a diversity of opinion among New Right supporters about the best presidential candidate for 1988. "But whoever the candidate happens to be, we will be unanimous in backing the one who supports the sanctity of human life and has a commitment to the moral values upon which this nation was founded," he added.

In his address, Gingrich urged the audience to help continue America's "revolution from a liberal welfare state to a conservative opportunity society."

He said President Reagan, who sent formal greetings to the conference, "has done more than any other person to redefine American life. He has

(Continued on page 15)

Names in the News

Anne R. (Mrs. Sidney) Henley was honored Oct. 6 by First Church, Lexington, for her 27 years of service as WMU director for the church.

Among participants were her son Thad and his wife Kathy of New Orleans. Thad sang and Kathy accompanied him on piano. Featured speaker was Marjean Patterson, director of the Mississippi WMU. A reception was held in the fellowship hall. Michael O'Brien is pastor.



Ricky Livingston has received an award for seven years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pharris Livingston. Ricky is a member of Evergreen Church, Louisville. Pictured presenting award is Floyd Childs, Sunday School director, and Leonard Howell, pastor.

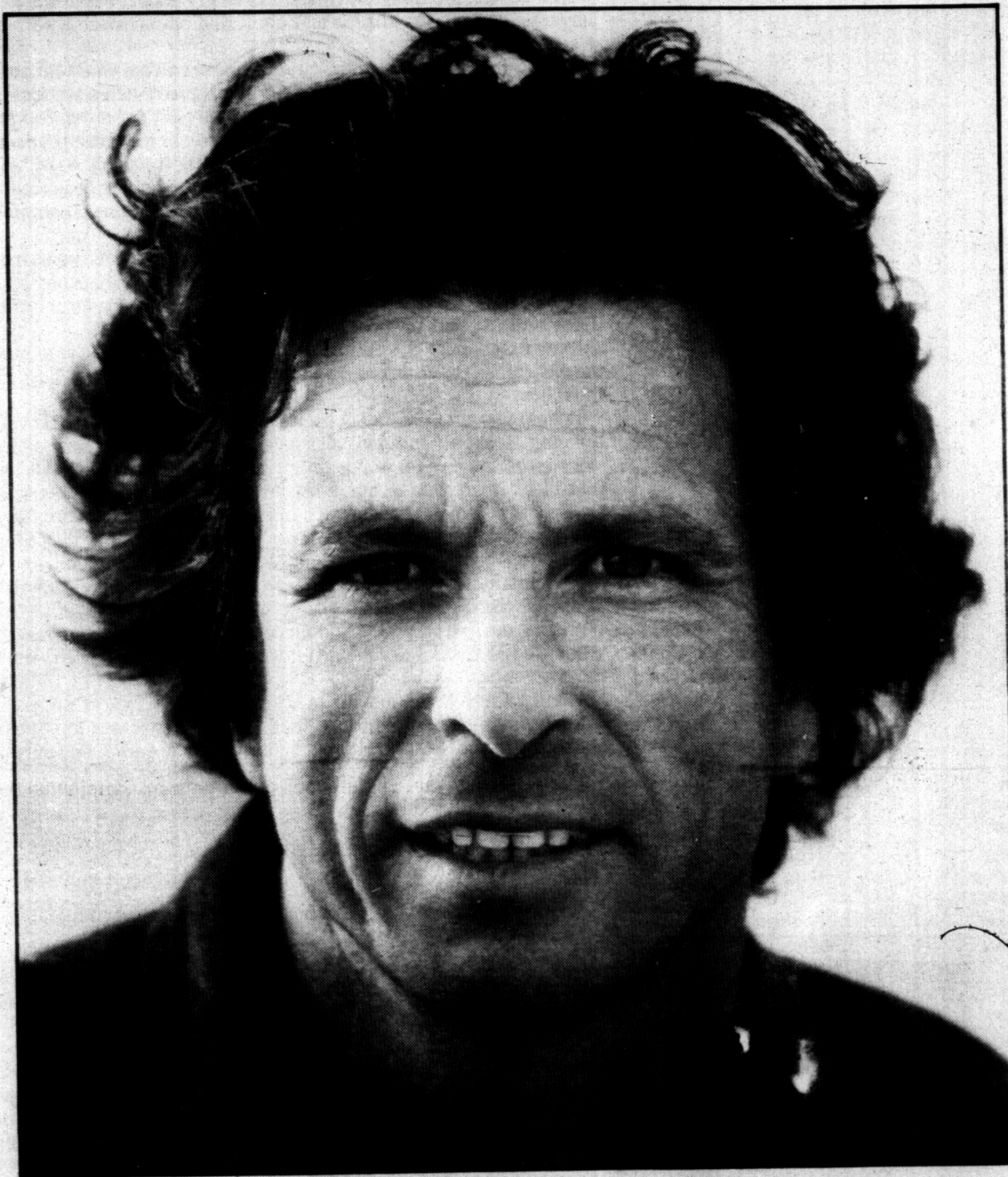


East End Church, Columbus, on Sept. 22, held a special day of activities to honor W. M. Daves on the beginning of his 15th year as pastor. Evangelist Anis Shorosh, a former college classmate of W. M. Daves, was the guest speaker for the morning worship service.

Many family members and friends from Mr. and Mrs. Daves' past were present for morning worship, a church-wide luncheon and a "This Is Your Life" program that followed.

Daves is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and Southern Seminary. The church also presented Mr. and Mrs. Daves with a monetary gift of appreciation.

"They came to Israel expecting to have a spiritual experience. What they didn't expect was the warm welcome."



"They were a couple of Americans who came to Israel like thousands of others each year to see the Holy Land.

"But what they found is that Israel isn't only the land of the Bible—it's also the land of Israelis.

"And we're very warm, outgoing people. Nearly everyone speaks English. It isn't hard to make lifelong friends among us.

"These Americans couldn't get over it. Everywhere they went, they made friends. When they went sightseeing in Nazareth and Old Jerusalem, for example.

"And later, strolling along the Sea of Galilee, where they met me. I was working on my fishing boat at the time.

"When I saw them off at the airport, they said that coming to Israel had strengthened them spiritually—and much of it was the people they met.

"Which is a little miraculous, all by itself."

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Romo cites crucial need for SBC refugee sponsors

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — It has been ten years since the fall of Vietnam, but the need for sponsors for Indochinese refugees is still crucial, the director of the SBC Home Mission Board's refugee resettlement program said after a three-week tour of refugee camps in Thailand, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

Oscar I. Romo, director of the HMB language missions division which coordinates efforts to find Southern Baptist sponsors for refugees, made an appeal to Southern Baptists to respond to the need as he reported to the board's language missions committee about his trip.

"When you see the needs of these people in the refugee camps and their intense desire to live in peace and freedom, you come away feeling God is saying something to us," Romo said in an interview.

"Maybe God brought them out (of Indochina) for some reason, and maybe we can reach them here (in the United States) when we couldn't reach them over there," Romo said.

Romo and Wallace W. Buckner, director of multiethnic ministries for the Home Mission Board who traveled with Romo to the camps, both said they found that conditions in the refugee camps were not as bad as they had expected.

"Some of the camps were in better shape than some of the migrant farm worker camps in the United States," Romo observed.

It was the first time Romo or any Home Mission Board refugee resettlement official had toured the refugee resettlement camps in Southeast Asia for a first-hand look at conditions. The trip was made under the auspices of the United Nations, which operates the camps in cooperation with the host governments.

The visit to the camps "gave us a better understanding of where these people (refugees) are coming from and what they have faced," Romo said. "We hope it will help us in the selection of sponsors and the mesh of sponsors and refugees."

Buckner added that it is harder now to enlist Baptist churches and individuals as refugee sponsors because the plight of the refugees is not currently receiving heavy media coverage. Buckner said the FMB is planning to produce a new packet of materials helping build awareness of the need for refugee resettlement, and how an individual can lead a church to sponsor a refugee.

Romo said he and Buckner came away from the visits feeling "we've got to do something to help these people." But they also struggled with the questions: "How much can you do, and for how long?"

After interviewing dozens of refugees in the camps, Buckner said he is convinced they did not leave their homeland primarily for economic reasons to find a better life, but rather for political reasons. "They have left their homeland to find peace and freedom and live in a place where they can enjoy basic human rights," Buckner said.

Buckner said he was more depressed by conditions at the Chimawan Center in Hong Kong than any other place they visited. About 10,000 refugees, most of them boat people, are in Hong Kong's "closed camps" and are not allowed to leave the barbed wire enclosed facilities. Buckner said they have little hope of ever being resettled, since only 50 to 100 per month are allowed to go to the USA.

"We struggled with what motives people have, to go by boat from Vietnam for 19 days and then be put into a prison-like camp and told there is no hope for resettlement. Yet they still want to stay," he said.

Buckner added one of the major problems the boat people face is pirates who sail the seas between Hong Kong and Vietnam, attacking the boats and kidnapping the women for sale into prostitution.

In Thailand, sometimes as many as 500,000 refugees are living in three different types of camps, called border camps, holding centers, and transit centers, Romo and Buckner reported.

Thailand officially closed its borders to refugees in 1982, explained Buckner, but the refugees continue to come. So the Thai government, in cooperation with the U.N., allowed them to stay in border camps just inside the Thailand/Kampuchea border.

Only refugees cleared by the United Nations can stay in the holding centers and transit center camps located further interior. "They may have the opportunity to be processed and resettled, and have more hope than those in the border camps," Romo said.

To qualify for resettlement, the refugees must be interviewed by United Nations officials and be approved for refugee status. In addition, priority is given to refugees with family members in the United States, families with Amerasian children and refugees with special status.

Since most refugees in these categories already have been resettled, the majority of refugees still in the camps have been there for six years or longer, Buckner added.

Refugees who can qualify for resettlement eventually may be able to go from the transit centers to the resettlement center in Bataan, Philippines, or to Canada, Australia, or Europe, Romo and Buckner said.

The camp in the Philippines is the best run and most encouraging of all the camps they visited, said Romo and Buckner, because there the refugees have hope for starting a new life. The Philippines camp has taken over responsibility handled in the mid-70s by the refugee resettlement camps at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Fort Chafee, Ark.; Elgin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Indiantown Gap, Penn., all now closed.

In the Philippines, about 17,500 refugees spend 15 weeks going through intensive English language, vocational training, and cultural orientation classes.

Romo praised the Baptist Refugee

Ministries vocational training program led by Steve Allen, an SBC Foreign Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer. The program teaches the refugees vocational job skills such as carpentry, electrical wiring, maid service, and ways to get a job in the United States.

About 1,000 refugees per week complete the training in the Philippines and are resettled in the United States, Buckner said.

But no refugee is allowed to enter the United States without a sponsor, Buckner and Romo said. And that is how Baptists can help most — by agreeing to sponsor a refugee or refugee family, they said. Baptists interested in serving as sponsors should contact the SBC Refugee Resettlement Office at 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, GA. 30367, telephone (404) 873-4041.

Mississippians wishing to learn more about sponsorship of either Indo-Chinese or European refugees may contact Richard Alford, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205; phone (601) 968-3800.

Alford reports that the current list of urgent requests for sponsors include a Cambodian mother and her four children who have been living in a Thai camp since 1979; a Polish man; and a Polish couple with three children, the men are members of Solidarity, the outlawed union.

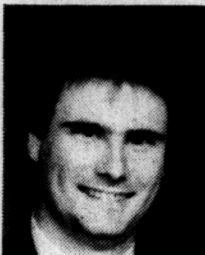
Devotional

God can't lie

By Chris Burrows

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: (Hebrews 6:17-18).

True confession time: At times, I have my doubts about the promises and purposes of God. I realize it is a blunt and embarrassing statement, but it is true.



Burrows

At times, circumstances do not work out as I think they should. In prayer, I'm answered with a 'no,' instead of a 'yes.' The answer positions may get reversed, or I am forced to wait. Inside, the sinking feeling swells up, accompanied by the inevitable, 'I know this just isn't right.'

Hope begins to get thin, the bottom drops out, and human logic does not offer much in the realm of consolation or good sense. I admit it.

However, I'm forced to turn to these verses from Hebrews in dealing with Abraham. God communicates two truths that merit hanging on to: (1) God has an unchangeable purpose; and (2) that purpose is guaranteed by his oath.

I know God can't lie, but this truth is difficult to explain to others. One of the difficulties comes in our humanity, since we do not think 'heavenly-minded' thoughts.

To help you avoid what I occasionally feel, let me suggest several benefits in being 'heavenly-minded' and dwelling on God's purpose and methods.

Initially, encouragement is provided by God. Let's face it, we are a society that loves logic. One of our most popular fictional characters, Star Trek's Dr. Spock, is famous for his uncompromising logic. Unfortunately, there are things of God that defy logic. Actually, logic is often a discouraging thing, but God's words are encouraging once they are accepted.

Accompanying the encouragement is the blessing of optimistic hope. Just as encouragement is the opposite of discouragement, so is hope from despair. Without trust in God's ways and thoughts, we find ourselves rooted in despair. When we realize God is in control, we have strength in hope; making Christians an optimistic lot.

Finally, there is the benefit of security. There isn't a Christian anywhere without the need of stability of soul. Doubt is a vicious foe, seeking to convince men they are alone, without hope, without security, and purpose. Human logic and thought won't cut through it. It will break down.

But, God's word never breaks down. In times of trouble, earthly thought patterns suggest 'if you trust God with this, then you will lose.' But, 'heavenly-minded' thought suggests 'for some unchangeable, unexplainable reason, those people that trust God will win.'

We know that, because ultimately, God wins.

Burrows is pastor, Dorsey Church, Mantachie, and staff member, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

BBI lunch set

Baptist Bible Institute Alumni in Mississippi will meet in the Oxford Room of the Sheraton Regency Hotel, 750 North State Street, Jackson, after the Tuesday night session of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention. J. R. Jones will be the guest faculty member. The cost per person will be \$5.00 and confirmation should be made by phone to president, Doug Benedict, Purvis, 268-7334 or vice president, Lynn Mackey, Waynesboro, 735-9413 no later than Friday, Nov. 8.

U.S. to have one million millionaires

The U.S. will soon have 1 million millionaires, says Thomas Stanley of Georgia State University, who has studied millionaires since 1973.

Stanley reported there were 832,602 millionaires in 1984 and there will be 1 million by 1987.

While California leads all states in the number of millionaires, most of the country's millionaires live in the South (30.6%), Stanley said.

Meanwhile, a report by the Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that average income per person in the U.S. last year was \$12,707.

—From news sources



Linwood men travel to NY to construct Jamestown church

On Aug. 11, four deacons, a layman and pastor of Linwood Church traveled to Jamestown, New York, to aid in construction of the Southside Baptist Church. Teddy Ward is pastor. Pictured, left to right, are Oliver Jolly and Randy Nicholson. Standing, Ray-

mond Breland, Johnny Collins, Bill Neece and Kenneth Thornton. Mary Guthrie reports, "They found there appreciative and cooperative Christians who request the prayers of Mississippians."

Housing forms are opened for SBC

ATLANTA (BP) — Requests for housing for the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention were opened Oct. 9, filling the 4,000-plus rooms available through the Atlanta Housing Bureau.

"It all went very smoothly this year," said Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager for the SBC. "Since all of the available rooms have been filled, there is no need for potential messengers to send additional forms."

All of the rooms were filled with requests postmarked Oct. 1 and 2, Hedquist said. "They were opened Oct. 9 in order to allow people in California the same opportunity as those who live in Atlanta," he added.

Since a majority of the housing requests listed a first choice of the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel — the convention headquarters hotel — only "about one in eight" got the first

choice. Attempts were made, however, he said, to put the people in second or third choice hotels.

Hedquist said the 10 hotels included in the Housing Bureau block have been notified and are expected to send confirmations soon.

For those who did not get rooms through the Housing Bureau, Hedquist said there should be no problems in obtaining reservations for the annual meeting, scheduled for June 10-12.

"There are 23,000 hotel rooms in Atlanta," Hedquist said. "We have prepared a list of 100 hotels and will be happy to provide the list to anyone who requests it."

Council 'steals' Christmas

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (EP) — It was not the "Grinch," but the city council that stole Christmas here.

The removal of Christmas started when the city council voted to make Yom Kippur a city holiday, in March, 1985. Local attorney Ira Stein objected, claiming that the city's promotion of a religious holiday violated the Supreme Court's principle of church-state separation. Stein's objection was backed by the American Jewish Committee.

As a result, the council decided to repeal the law — and to remove Christmas from the list of official holidays as well. City Manager Paul Brotzman explained, "The council is saying that all religious holidays are on the same footing. We understand that the U.S. Supreme Court considers Christmas a secular holiday, but the council takes issue with that and views Christmas as a religious holiday."

Blue Mountain ministers' alumni plan supper

The annual Blue Mountain ministerial alumni supper will be held at Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, on Tuesday night of the convention at 5:15 p.m. All alumni, their wives, and guests are urged to attend, said Mike Burczynski, President, BMCMA. The special music will be provided by James Lewis; Randy Bostick will bring the message. Tickets may be purchased during the Mississippi Convention from the BMC Ministerial Alumni officers.



Gift goes to Travis fund

James L. Travis accepts a special contribution to the Travis Scholarship Fund from Billy Staggs, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Booneville. The offering was taken during a revival at the church which was led by Travis with former mayor Charles Crabb leading the music. The scholarship fund was established by the ministerial alumni of Blue Mountain College in honor of Travis, chairman of the Division of Biblical and Associated Studies and head of the Department of Bible at the college. Income from the trust goes for scholarships for young people who have committed their lives to fulltime Christian service, with preference given to men who are preparing for the ministry.

National religious coalition sets sights on election

(Continued from page 12) made the right speeches. He has delegated the right authority. He is doing his job. What we need to do is open up new opportunities so that he has better options from which to choose."

Gingrich was joined by other speakers in an appeal for more forceful opposition to communism. Dornan criticized the "wimps" in Congress and "even in the administration" who have "refused to support the freedom fighters" in Afghanistan, Africa, and Central America. "What's been wrong with American foreign policy is all this whimpering," he said. "We've got nothing to be ashamed of." America, he said, has a "God-ordained role" to "carry the torch of freedom" around the world.

In addition to fighting communism abroad, conference participants also were urged to confront "secular humanism" at home.

Kennedy, a speaker at the 1985 Pastors' Conference in Dallas, said the problem in American society is that "humanism is being installed as the established religion in America today."

He listed "three great deceptions"

which have been "fixed upon the minds of many Americans": (1) the idea that America is a pluralistic nation, (2) the belief that "you can't legislate morality," and (3) the principle of separation of church and state.

The idea of pluralism is a "halfway house on the road from Christianity upon which this country was founded to the humanistic, secularistic way it has been heading," Kennedy said.

"Legislation," he added, "is always the imposition of someone's morality on someone else. 'The question is, whose morality?'"

Kennedy said the concept of separation of church and state is a "distortion of the First Amendment" never intended by the nation's founders or the framers of the Constitution. Rather than being understood as a "one-way street" that restrains only the power of the government, the "so-called wall of separation" has become a "two-way street" that results in "taking the shackles off government and putting them on the church."

As did Kennedy, LaHaye decried the influence of "secularists" in America who "with the aid of the Supreme Court have seemingly expelled God, the Bible, and morality from the public school system. And what the secularists have done with the public schools, with this hostility toward religion, they want to do with all of America."

The "secularists," LaHaye said, already "control" three of the four "major spheres of influence" in America: government, education, and the media. A spiritual revival in the fourth sphere, the church, is "the only thing that has saved America from secularization," he said.

Thursday, October 31, 1985
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 15

Preschool care to be available at convention

Preschool care will be available for children, ages birth through five, at First Church, Jackson, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 11-13.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off President Street. Signs point the way.

Hours will be listed in the daily bulletin to be distributed during the convention. The following are procedures to be followed:

1 Register, giving names of the child or children, the parent, and the church.

2. Be sure all belongings are labeled.

3. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.

4. Leave the children no earlier than 20 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the sessions.

5. Children may stay through the noon meal if parents provide food—baby food or snack lunch. The preschool teachers will serve the children the noon meal only. All children must be picked up for the supper meal.

Gore Springs celebrates 30th year

Over 150 persons attended the 30th birthday celebration of Gore Springs Church, Grenada County, held Oct. 20. Bernette Fielder, pastor, led the group as church officers were recognized, church history was read, and visitors were welcomed.

Fielder led the music during the morning service; the church's first pastor, Gwin Middleton of Kosciusko, preached the sermon. Special guest was Mrs. L. B. Cooper of Southaven, widow of L. B. Cooper, the church's second pastor. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Rose Marie C. Wilson. Other special guests included Mrs. Gwin Middleton and two of their daughters with their families.

A fund has been started to pave the driveway and parking area of the church.

A noon meal was served by the women of the church. The afternoon program was planned by Mrs. Arnold Dyre, who led the group in an appreciation service for Mrs. Montye Gillon, oldest charter member of the church, as well as pianist. The program honored Mrs. Gillon for the love, dedication, and faithfulness she has exhibited, especially in the field of music. Mrs. Gillon is 84 years of age and plays for two morning worship services in different churches now. A music scholarship fund was established in her honor to be administered by the deacons of the church.

Missionary News

Ralph and Lynda Bethea, missionaries to Kenya, report a change of address (P.O. Box 82925, Mombasa, Kenya). He was born in Chicago, Ill. She is the former Lynda Sharp of Jackson, Miss.

Do all you can to make the boss think you are underpaid.

D. P. Smith, of Jackson, who has been appointed as a missionary to the Ivory Coast, is now in orientation at the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center. Her address until Dec. 13 will be D. P. (Diane Pamela) Smith, Missionary Learning Center, P. O. Box 129, Rockville, VA 23146.

Gerald and Glenda Davis, missionaries to the Philippines, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 7506, Air-mail Exchange, Manila International Airport, Philippines 3120). He is a native of Carrollton, Ala. The former Glenda Brooks, she was born in Marks, Miss.

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The end of God's patience with Israel

By J. Gerald Harris

Ezekiel 20:7-11, 36-39; 24:13b-14

In this lesson we have the opportunity to consider the last prophecies of Ezekiel before the fall of Jerusalem. The prophet of God reminds the people of their faithlessness and rebellion throughout history. He then announces that the sword of the divine judgment is about to fall.

The last word given in this series of prophetic messages was given on the day when Jerusalem was initially sieged. Ezekiel's wife died on this same day, but the prophet was commanded not to weep openly over his deceased mate. This prohibition was given to illustrate the fact that the coming destruction of Jerusalem was incomparably more tragic than any personal loss. The patience of a longsuffering God and the entreaties

of a compassionate God had not produced a positive response from the people. Judgment was now inevitable and imminent.

I. A picture of rebellion (20:7-11) — Ezekiel indicates that Israel has been adversely influenced by the idolatry of Egypt. Indeed, Israel's readiness to worship the golden calf in the wilderness would tend to confirm the validity of this influence (Ex. 32). We are told that the golden calf made by Aaron for the people resembled Apis, the Egyptian ox worshiped by the people of the Nile River. Moreover, in Joshua's farewell address to the children of Israel, he attested to Israel's idolatry in Egypt (Joshua 24:14).

Ezekiel observed that Israel's history had been a history of idolatry, rebellion and sin. He declared that

their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt was not because it was deserved, but because God dominated and rather than manifesting himself in judgment, he manifested himself in deliverance. The heathen, therefore, had no occasion to question God's power to save.

II. A program of restoration (20:36-39) — Although God delivered the Israelites from the land of Egypt, he afterwards destroyed in the wilderness "them that believed not" (Jude 5). Many believe that the verses of our text point to a day when God gathered the peoples of Israel together in the Syro-Arabian desert between Babylon and Palestine. There he would plead with them and bring them under the rod.

The "rod" here is the same tool of the shepherd's trade as is found in Psalm 23:4. The shepherd would use this "rod" to gather his flock (Ezek. 34:11), to count the flock (Lev. 27:32),

and to chastise the flock. Oftentimes we discover that the rod of God speaks and pleads for God. The thought is conveyed in Isaiah 66:16: "For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh . . ." God uses his rod of chastisement to convince or confound sinners. The text indicates that by use of the rod God will purge the rebels out from the nation and restrict them from entering into the land of Israel.

In verse 39, we have a clear word from the Lord concerning hypocrisy. He declares that open idolatry is more palatable to him than the sham and pretense of hypocrisy. During World War I President Roosevelt noted some German-Americans as having divided loyalties. He called them hyphenated Americans. In Ezekiel's day and in our day we have people who want to proclaim their faith in God and simultaneously cling to their idols. So, we have the problem of hyphenated Christians and to God

that is totally unacceptable.

III. A parable of ruin (24:13b-14) — In the 24th chapter of Ezekiel the prophet of God gives the parable of the boiling pot. Jerusalem is the pot. The flesh in the pot represents the inhabitants of the city. Jehovah is seen as the one kindling the fire under the pot. The Lord kindled such a great fire that the result was utter destruction.

In verse 13, we find the statement, "I have purged thee and thou wast not purged . . ." No longer is God seeking to purge and correct this wayward people. Now he is manifesting himself as a consuming fire. When every effort fails to produce repentance, there is nothing left for a just God to do but deal the rebel the fatal consequences which he is due.

In this act of judgment King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was the instrument of God's judgment. God is never without his tool of destruction. Even the ungodliest of men can become a sword in the hand of God.

Harris is pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson.

Confronting false teachers

By Anthony S. Kay

I Timothy 4

In order to focus this material for our thinking, let us draw a contrast between false and true teachings.

I. Elements of false teaching — Paul elaborates on the ideas presented by false teachers. It is worthy to note that false teachers are not "Johnny come latelies." They are as old as the church. The false teachings discussed in this passage are centered around the areas of marriage and food. In much of Greek thought, mind, soul and spirit are all considered as good. Matter, body and flesh are viewed as evil.

Some Christians were mistakenly led to believe that the best course of action for them was to renounce marriage and adhere to strict dieting codes. The old "demiurge" view of God surfaces. How does a good God

create evil? Further, this false teaching stressed the relation of religion to the inner man. These teachings led to the mistaken idea that a Christian, assured of salvation in the church, could do what he wished without sin. This may sound ridiculous, but it also sounds contemporary.

A key thought that Paul expressed in regard to these individuals is that they are liars whose consciences have been seared. This might imply that they are branded by Satan. The brand of Jesus has been seared over with the brand of Satan. It could mean that by practice and precept individuals had become immune to the Spirit of God.

Many of us are tempted to think like these early believers. We allow the allure of false teaching to carry us into unethical areas of living. I have known people who felt that it was

perfectly right for them to take equipment, materials, etc., from their employers just because they worked for them. Christianity calls for ethical expressions of living.

II. Warnings to true believers — Paul suggests that we need a spiritual "tune up." In our exercise saturated world (I, too, believe in keeping the body physically sound), let us hear Paul's word clearly, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (vs. 7 & 8). These words reveal that the Christian should be more attentive to keeping himself spiritually fit. He should be nourished on the words of the faith and with good doctrine. This suggests that man is more than a

body. We must not ignore our spiritual need while we attend the physical.

Timothy is urged to set a personal example. More will be accomplished in the Kingdom of God today when Christian leaders set the right example. Too many of us seem to be saying "Don't do as I do, do as I say." Paul gives this advice in v. 12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." This example of spiritual development and conduct will refute false teachings.

The best argument against anything is results. Daniel asked to be allowed, with the three Hebrew children, to refrain from eating food from the king's table. He asked for the bare essentials and suggested that the king examine the four of them and compare them to the others after a period of time. God granted these young men vigor and health. If we meditate on God's Word and practice

its teachings, we will produce positive results.

The statement "Take heed unto thyself . . ." is striking. It reminds us of our personal responsibility. Verse 16 suggests that the teacher must not lose sight of his own spiritual need. He must be concerned about his personal growth. However, he should, also, be concerned about teaching others. Through teaching others and attending to his own spiritual needs "he will save both himself and his hearers" (Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 11, p. 434).

The hymn by Lidie H. Edmunds sums up what our witness should be: *My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed; I trust the Everliving One, his wounds for me shall plead. My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God, Salvation by my Savior's name, salvation thro' his blood. I need no other argument, I need no other plea, It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.*

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Keeping commitments

By David W. Spencer

Joshua 23:11-16

The November theme of these lessons concerns how God's people can face new challenges and new environments with adequate resources. In the lesson for this week we hear from Joshua, one of God's great leaders, as he gives part of his farewell speech to Israel just before his death. Israel had marched into Canaan and had conquered much of it. As they prepared to settle down in this new land, Joshua warned them about some of the dangers.

I. The dangers — vs. 11-13

Just because Israel had come to claim Canaan as its new home, all the settlers of that land did not leave. Many Canaanite families remained in the land hoping they would not be forced out. The process of driving out these pagan people had not yet been completed. Joshua reminded Israel

that they were not through yet. Pockets of resistance were everywhere. Even in David's time, he found Jerusalem occupied by Jebusites. Just as Joshua feared, the people never finished the job of claiming all the land.

The danger of having these pagans living in Canaan was found in the possibility that some Israelites might be tempted to intermarry with the Canaanites. Joshua believed that this would dilute the faith of Israel by introducing pagan customs and gods.

As a pastor I know where Joshua is "coming from." It is terribly distressing to see Christians engage in marriage, business pursuits, or deeply involved social relationships with non-Christians. So often this brings pain, confusion, compromise, and loss of Christian vitality. In most cases Christians and non-Christians do not have the same moral, monetary, family, or social values. Both parties are

uncomfortable. Quite often it is the Christian who totally compromises his beliefs.

If he does not compromise his values, he has a divided home. Most Christians talk about winning their lost spouses to Christ, but this is often much more difficult than they thought. It would be well to remember Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 6:14, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." However, human nature being what it is, those who have married unbelievers should read 1 Corinthians 7:12-16.

Joshua knew that the home was the basis of national life. The homes of Israel needed to be strong in the Lord.

II. The consequences — vs. 14-16

Joshua issued a warning to his people about what they should expect if they were disobedient and intermarried with the Canaanites. Having reminded the people that God always kept His promises to bless them in their obedience, he also reminded

them that God always judges sin! The judgment they could expect was to "perish quickly from off the good land." This would involve death, aimless wandering, national disintegration, and searching for a home. For a people who just finished forty years of such judgment, these must have been awful words. Yet like people today, the lessons learned by the previous generation were soon forgotten.

The pressures of living in a constantly changing world in the 1980's can lead us to compromise our faith also. We need to be reminded often that God is faithful to His part of the covenant and we ought be faithful as well! We cannot become presumptuous and expect God's blessings to remain upon disobedient families or a disobedient nation. To really appreciate and enjoy the blessings of life in Christ we cannot compromise this life with the world. It must always be "Jesus First!"

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October 31, 1985